

# UNWANTED



Photo – Environment Agency

## AUSTRALIAN STONECROP ( *Crassula helmsii* )

The Australian Stonecrop was first sold in the U.K. as an ornamental plant for ponds in 1920 and was first seen in the wild in 1956. It is now known from over 1200 sites in England but is probably far more widespread. It forms extremely dense mats which crowd and shade out other plant species and exclude fish. It also has an extremely efficient uptake of nutrients and can actually “starve” out other species. While not a threat to faster flowing rivers, it can overwhelm ponds, lochs and slow-flowing waters. Its main method of spread has been by sale in garden centres, where it is sometimes called *Tillea recurva*, *Tillea helmsii* or New Zealand Pygmy Weed. As it can grow from fragments as small as 5mm, any aquatic plants from a garden centre that sells it can be contaminated. Once established, alien freshwater species of any sort are extremely difficult to eradicate and their presence permanently changes the natural identity of the area, making it less distinctive and more like any other place. TO HELP SAFEGUARD THE NATURAL IDENTITY AND THE FISHERIES OF THE TWEED, **PLEASE :**

**\* DO NOT BRING ANY LIVING COLD FRESHWATER FISH, SHRIMPS, CRAYFISH OR OTHER PLANT OR ANIMAL THAT COULD SURVIVE IN THE WILD INTO THE CATCHMENT:- IF IN DOUBT, PHONE SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE, 01896 756652**

**\* DO NOT TIP WATER BROUGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE CATCHMENT INTO ANY POND, LOCH OR STREAM - POUR IT AWAY ON THE GROUND**