Description: Swamp stone crop is a perennial, aquatic or semi-terrestrial, succulent herb. Semi-terrestrial plants are creeping and tend to grow in stands of short, densely-packed stems. Submerged plants grow from a well-rooted basal rosette, with long, sparsely-leaved stems. Leaves are opposite and succulent, 0.2-0.8 inches long, and 0.03-0.06 inches wide. Their shape is linear-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate with acute tips. White or pinkish flowers form singly in the leaf axils. Flowers are just 0.12-0.14 inches wide and have 4 petals. Fruits are follicles with 2-5 tiny, elliptical, smooth seeds.

Ecological threat: Swamp stone crop can form dense populations that displace native aquatic vegetation, decrease biodiversity, increase water oxygen levels, obstruct water flow, and impede recreational use of lakes and ponds. It reduces the germination of native plants, completely suppressing native species within a few years of its introduction in a water body. It spreads rapidly through plant fragments. It is tolerant of a wide range of water and temperature conditions; it is frost tolerant and often does not die back in winter. Swamp stone crop has been an especially problematic invader in the United Kingdom and parts of Western Europe.

Native Range: Australia and New Zealand


Swamp stone crop is prohibited in Minnesota and Wisconsin. For up-to-date management options, see http://www.issg.org/database/species/management_info.asp?si=1517&fr=1&sts=&lang=EN.

Photo Credit: Left - Peter Llewellyn; Line drawing - IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants, University of Florida

Early detection and rapid response can help stop the spread!