

TRAD

Tradescantia fluminensis



Description

Ground cover with shiny green leaves and white flowers. Perennial, prostrate +/- succulent herb with sparse fibrous roots; stems branching, rooting at the joints. Leaves almost stalkless, hairless with prominent mid-vein; lamina ovate-lanceolate. Flowers 15-20 per inflorescence.

Flowering time

Spring to Summer; later in warmer parts of NSW.

How is it spread

Any stem fragments that has a node will grow, these can be as small as 1cm. Stem fragments are spread by people, water, contaminated soil, vehicles and machinery, sticking to animal hooves.

Habitat

Widespread in high rainfall areas. Prefers fertile damp soils and can survive in seasonally waterlogged soils.

Origin

Tropical rainforests of South America.

Impacts

Forms dense mats that smother and out-compete native ground covers and can prevent germination of tree species. Shade tolerant so can establish in healthier forest. Can contribute to flooding by clogging watercourses and drains. **Can cause severe allergic skin reactions in animals and occasionally people.**

Similar species



Macquaire Un



David Bevege

Scurvy Weed *Commelina cyanea* has blue flowers, thicker stems, narrower leaves and has a denser root system. **Native.**

Aneilema biflorum has smaller, finer leaves and flowers with a finely wavy margin on the leaf. **Native.**

Other **Weed** Tradescantia species (*T. zebrina* and *T. cerinthoides*) are purplish or sometimes striped leaves.

Control Methods

PHYSICAL REMOVAL

By hand Small infestations can be pulled out, but all stems and roots must be removed to avoid regrowth.

Raking and Rolling Thick patches can be raked and rolled into bundles where there are no desirable plants.

Plastic sheeting In warm areas, lay plastic over the trad infestation for 2–6 weeks in warm weather. After removing the plastic, check for and control regrowth.

Disposal of all plant parts carefully. In hot weather bundles of trad can be covered by plastic sheets for 2–6 weeks. Ensure that the trad is in a flood free area that will not be disturbed. Check and control any regrowth. Contact your local council for advice on how to dispose of this weed.

Bio control

The leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis* has been successfully trailed in New Zealand and CSIRO and the NSW government have been doing trail releases over the past few years.

<https://research.csiro.au/wandering-trad/our-research/>

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Combine herbicide with a wetting agent.

Repeated follow-up treatments are required.

Spot spraying is suitable for dense infestations that are not too close to other desirable plants. Apply herbicide to actively growing plants. Ensure that all the foliage is covered.

Weed wipers apply herbicide directly onto leaves. This can better target the chemical and minimise damage to other species.

Herbicide

WARNING - ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Users of agricultural or veterinary chemical products must always read the label and any permit, before using the product, and strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions on the label or the conditions of the permit by reason of any statement made or not made in this information. To view permits or product labels go to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website www.apvma.gov.au. See [Using herbicides](#) for more information.

PERMIT [11916](#) Expires 31/03/2025

Biosecurity Duty

All pest plants are regulated with a general biosecurity duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

More information

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Trad>

