

WANDERING JEW

*Tradescantia fluminensis*CLIMBERS AND
GROUND COVERS

Family Commelinaceae

Origin South America

Description A perennial creeping herb that grows to a height of 0.3m and a spread of 2m. The plants prefers well-composted, moist soils in protected partially shaded positions. It is drought and frost tender¹. The plant is found along the entire NSW coast on moist fertile soils such as rainforest understorey and in gullies². Highly invasive⁸.

Stems/Leaves The stem is low, branching and spreading¹ with prominent nodes. Alternate, simple leaves that are lanceolate to ovate in shape⁸. The leaves are dark green, with a deep purple under surface¹.

Flowers Small white flowers that have 3 petals and appear spring to summer¹.

Fruit/Seed A capsule with seed that is not viable. Plant is spread by vegetative dispersal⁸.

Root system Stoloniferous, fibrous root system⁸.

Removal techniques

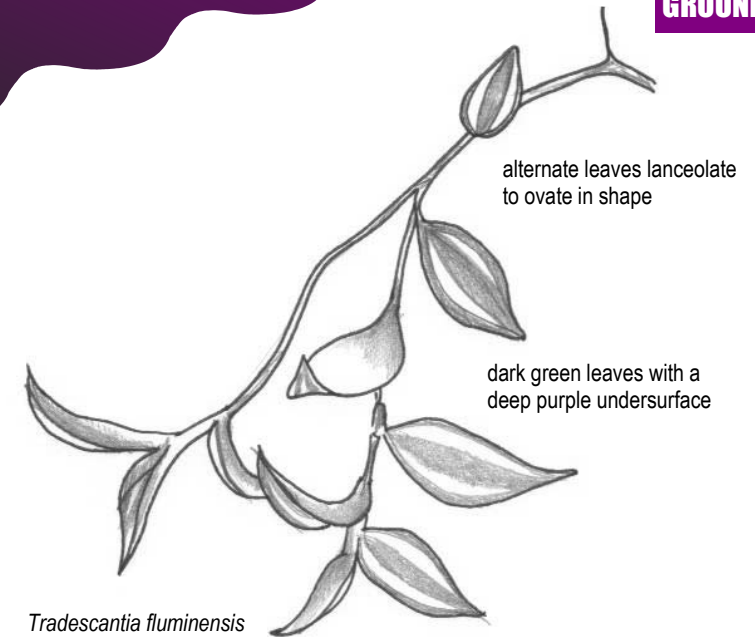
Manual Where possible remove the weed from dry, rather than damp soil as the stems come out more easily. When pulling out the plant lift the stem carefully from a common growing point. For plants with a spread of about 60 cm find the central growing point and insert a knife next to this point. Carefully lever the section up and pull/lift each stem away from the soil. For large infestations rake away most of the plant and once removed go over the area with a knife and scrape away all loose pieces. Go over the area again and scrape the soil to expose any remaining fragments of stem or tails. All sections of the plant must be removed and disposed of as the smallest fragment of the plant is capable of re-establishing into a new plant²². Follow-up maintenance is recommended².

Chemical Chemical controls are available. Spray the weed and any regrowth with glyphosate at a ratio of 1:75 with surfactant. Apply two sprays about 6 to 8 weeks apart. Re-treatment is essential. It is best done in winter or early spring²².

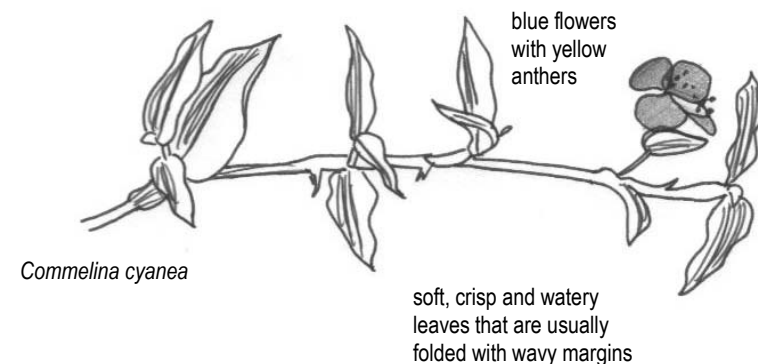
Notes

When disturbed the plant roots easily at the nodes, although it will not burn⁸.

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*Tradescantia fluminensis*CLIMBERS AND
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Native Wandering Jew (*Commelina cyanea*): Distinguished by blue flowers with yellow anthers and smaller leaves that are less crowded on the stem. The leaves are soft, crisp and watery usually folded with wavy margins. When not flowering it is similar to *Tradescantia fluminensis*. Common in shady areas this species is sometimes a weed in gardens⁹.



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