

# Wandering trad

*Tradescantia albiflora*



Wandering trad is a succulent creeping plant native to South America. It is popular in gardens as a groundcover and establishes easily in moist, shady areas. Wandering trad has become a major environmental invasive plant in subtropical and temperate rainforests, particularly along streams and gullies where it spreads quickly and out-competes other native vegetation. Can cause dermatitis in dogs after they roll in it.

Infestations up to 1 m deep have been found in north Queensland rainforests. Wandering trad sends out roots at each nodal point, allowing it to trail over the ground to form a thick carpet-like cover. Wandering trad reproduces via stolons, seeds and tubers.

## Legal requirements

Wandering trad is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on wandering trad. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



## Description

Wandering trad is a ground cover succulent. Stems are soft and easily broken. The fleshy stems root at any node that is on the surface. Leaves are oval dark green, and shiny 5–10 mm long, leaf blades 3–6.5 cm long, 1–3 cm wide, with parallel veins covered with small hairs. Flowers are small white and three-petalled flowers with yellow tipped stamens, 2 cm across, petals 7–10 mm long. Seeds are not produced, spread is vegetative. Flowers are produced mainly in spring.

## Native wandering trad

A similar looking plant *Commelina diffusa* is native to south-east Queensland. Native wandering trad has blue flowers (usually flowering in autumn) and a slender tapered leaf, unlike the weedy species *Tradescantia albiflora* (which has fleshier, rounded, glossier leaves). The native wandering trad is not an environmental invasive plant.



Native wandering trad (*Commelina diffusa*)

## Control

Hand pulling to carefully remove the whole plant including the roots and nodes is effective but labour intensive.

## More information

More information is available from your local government office or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of wandering trad

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, forests, pastures and rights-of-way	Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Fluroxypyr 200)	1500 mL/100 L water	Foliar spray Young plants up to and including flowering
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (e.g. Starane Advanced)	900 mL/100 L water	Some regrowth will usually occur and will require treatment
	Fluroxypyr 400 g/L (e.g. Comet 400)	750 mL/100 L water	
Non-crop areas, including native vegetation, conservation areas, gullies, reserves and parks	Picloram 44.7 g/L + aminopyralid 4.47 g/L (Vigilant II)	Use undiluted	Herbicide gel: use 'leaf wiping' technique Apply to at least 50% of the leaves

**Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.**

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au) to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

