

Wandering jew or trad

Tradescantia albiflora



Wandering jew 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 jew has become a major environmental weed 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 jew sends out roots at each nodal point, allowing it to trail over the ground to form a thick carpet-like cover. Wandering jew reproduces via stolons, seeds and tubers.

Legal requirements

Wandering jew 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 and animals under their control.

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



Description

Wandering jew 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 jew

A similar looking plant *Commelina diffusa* is native to south-east Queensland. Native wandering jew 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 jew is not an environmental weed.



Native wandering jew (*Commelina diffusa*)

Control

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

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of wandering jew

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Foliar spray	fluroxypyr 200 g/L	1500 mL per 100 L of water	Registered	Young plants up to and including flowering. Some regrowth will usually occur and will require treatment.
Herbicide gel	picloram 43 g/kg e.g. Vigilant®	Apply at 16 g/m ² over the foliage using a long handled paint roller or similar.		Make sure foliage has been completely flattened during application. Avoid splatter. Visible effects apparent in 2–3 months. Picloram can be active in the plant for up to two years. Total plant death may take from six months to two growing seasons after application.

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

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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 www.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.

