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 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 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 flesher, rounded, glossier leaves). The native wandering jew is not an environmental weed.

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 biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of wandering jew

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

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