

Wandering Trad *Tradescantia fluminensis*

Environmental Weed Factsheet

Origin: South America

Size: Prostrate spreading plant

Flowers: September to February

Removal time: All Year



What it does...

Wandering Trad is a layering perennial herb forming a smothering carpet across the ground that can be over 500 mm thick. It displaces indigenous ground covers, herbs, grasses and orchids.

Stems and leaves are thick, succulent and glossy. Has white flowers in Summer. Leaves are a common cause of skin rashes in pets, particularly on the stomach area. It is toxic to cattle. It invades damp, wet and shaded areas of ground story and is widespread along creeks and waterways.

How it spreads...

- Spreads rapidly along the ground.
- Each leaf node along a stem is able to root and form a new plant with stems capable of spreading several metres each year.
- The weed spreads rapidly in bushland areas from dumped garden rubbish.
- Stems are able to survive for up to 1 year without contact with soil or roots.

How to remove it...



Remove by Hand: all roots need to be removed and disposed of correctly while minimising disturbance to surrounding soil. Great care needs to be taken with removal from the site as even a tiny piece of stem will regrow. If in a thick mat it is possible to roll the weed on itself like a carpet using a rake. This will pick up the majority of it, then follow up over several years to remove rooted fragments.



Spray with Herbicide: Application of herbicide is possible and will control the weed.

Please contact the Yarra Ranges Council's Environment Department on 1300 368 333 for more information on weed removal techniques, support and training available and details of active community groups in your area.

Indigenous alternatives to plant...

There are many impressive creepers that are indigenous to the shire of Yarra Ranges that would make great substitutes for the Wandering Trad. Some alternatives include:



Bidgee-widgee,
Acaena novae-zelandiae



Lesser Joyweed,
Alternanthera denticulate



How to dispose of weeds:

By disposing of environmental weeds correctly you can prevent re-infestation on your property and elsewhere.

- Landfill (Weed Wipeout Tip vouchers available for some species).
- Green waste bin ensures that weeds are not able to spread.
- Woody weed stems can be bundled for green collection twice per annum.
- Composting (excluding seed heads or species with vegetative reproduction, e.g. Wandering Trad).
- Burning in accordance with Council and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) prescribed burning periods and regulations.
- Recovery and transfer stations available for weed tipping are Healesville, Wesburn, Coldstream, Lysterfield and Montrose.

Bare ground attracts WEEDS!!!

For effective long term weed control we recommend:

- **Habitat Restoration**
 - Encourages indigenous and native plant to **regenerate**
 - **Revegetation** - replanting indigenous vegetation
- Productive land **use**.
- **Replace** with non invasive garden species.

Using Chemicals:

Non chemical treatments is often the most effective and safe option especially on smaller scale infestations.

Where chemical use is undertaken:

- Always follow the manufacture's guidelines when using chemicals.
- Wear protective clothing and eyewear
- On purchasing your herbicide, always ask for a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or refer to the manufacturer's website for specific safety guidelines and information.
- Some herbicides will kill other plants and not just the target species.
- Near waterways herbicides can be very poisonous to aquatic life.
- Use chemicals sparingly and be sure that you are using the right chemical and application technique.
- Ensure the weather conditions are suitable (e.g. minimal wind and no rain expected)
- Apply herbicides at the correct time during the plant's growth cycle so you get the best results..