

# Trad, wandering willie, wandering jew

## *Tradescantia fluminensis*, Commelinaceae



- perennial herb
- prefers damp shady locations but can easily tolerate full sun, drought and flooding
- forms dense mats
- long, fast growing, succulent stems may have pink tinged 'elbows' (angled nodes)
- broadly elliptical leaves (3-6 cm long) with parallel veins are arranged alternately on the stems with a short sheath
- shaded leaves are dark green, glossy and smooth
- each leaf node will produce roots when in contact with the ground, allowing new plants to grow from stem fragments
- small white three petalled flowers (1-2 cm across)
- fruit and seed not produced in NZ
- originally from subtropical Brazil and Argentina

**Control:** This weed can be raked and rolled up in bulk as a mat, but it is difficult to collect every stem fragment (from which new plants can grow) and the stems break very easily. Remove to landfill or compost for six months inside black plastic rubbish bags or weed bags. It can also be covered with water inside closed plastic drums to decompose in two months. If using herbicide, it is best to apply the spray during drought conditions and during spring. Regular checking is needed for re-growth and re-invasion - at least four times each year.



Photos: top right, D. Burdon, WeedFree Trust; remainder, A. Stanton