Wandering Jew / Trad

*Tradescantia fluminensis*

What does it look like?
- A low creeping, soft herbaceous and rapid-growing plant forming a thick green blanket
- Its many segmented stems are long, succulent and trailing, curving upwards at the tips
- Fine shallow roots grow at each segment and the stems break easily at segment joints
- The leaves are a shiny green, smooth and slightly fleshy, sheathed where they join the stem
- Small unscented white flowers, with 3 triangular petals appear spring to summer

Where does it grow?
Favours damp, shady nutrient-enriched areas, such as gardens, creek banks and disturbed bushland.

How does it spread?
This plant spreads vegetatively, no seed is produced. Garden refuse dumped in bushland is a common form of spread. Stem fragments and roots readily wash down waterways or spread in mud from vehicles.

How does it affect the environment?
This highly invasive weed rapidly takes over the ground layer in gullies and temporary watercourses, forming a thick blanket of leaves that exclude light and warmth. Trad aggressively smothers low plants and seedlings and cools the soil, preventing native plant germination and regeneration.

Reference and controls
General information on control methods, can be found in the most recent edition of the annual *Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook* (found on the DPI website). The most appropriate weed control methods should always be checked with your Local Control Authority (local council or county council).

- WEEDeck from www.sainty.com.au
- www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
- www.sydneyweeds.org.au
- www.aabr.org.au

!!Caution!!
Tradescantia species are a well known cause of skin conditions in canines.

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