

# Seen this plant? Chameleon Plant

*Houttuynia cordata*



Also known as fish mint, fish leaf, rainbow plant, fish wort, heart leaf, ground ivy, dokudami, Chinese lizard tail, or bishop's weed.

### How could this plant affect us?

Chameleon plant has high growth and reproductive rates. It reproduces both by seeds and root fragments, with every segment of its roots able to grow readily and effortlessly.

This species has the potential to form dense monocultures that:

- displace native plants
- impede the movement of native fauna
- reduce the diversity of native flora
- reduce foraging habitat for native fauna
- impede the passage of water.

**Seen it? Call us:**

**Council Weeds  
Officer:**

02 1234 5678

**Regional Weed  
Coordinator**

0430 410 604

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## Where are you likely to find it?

Chameleon plant prefers forested and wetland environments. It's natural habitats are moist loamy soils, shallow water and low light situations. It thrives along the margins of ponds and waterways. It can grow in water and soil.

## How is it spread?

The root material of Chameleon Plant is fragile. It is easily broken into fragments that can be moved by water and disturbance to the soil by people and fauna. The fragments can easily take root and form new plants.

## What does it look like?

It is a deciduous, perennial, creeping herb used as a matting ground cover that can grow to 60cm tall. It has heart-shaped leaves that can be green through to cream, yellow, bronze and red. The leaves grow up to 75mm long and almost as wide long. The flowers are minute and yellow and are clustered on short spikes that are framed by four white petal-like parts.

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