

10. Wandering willie

Tradescantia fluminensis



What is Wandering willie?

Wandering willie is a pest plant. It spreads like crazy over the forest floor, covering the ground. This weed smothers other plants, changing the ecosystem. It can even grow in the shade.

Why is Wandering willie a problem for NZ?

Wandering willie is a threat to New Zealand forests and plants. It is very hard to get rid of and overtakes the forest floor so that nothing else can grow.

This weed smothers small plants, seedlings and other living things and threatens their survival. It can also intensify flooding on riverbanks.



How do I know it's Wandering willie?



Wandering willie has shiny, hairless, oval leaves with pointed ends. The soft stems are in connected pieces (segments). The flowers are small and white and usually appear in summer. No fruit is produced in New Zealand.

How does it spread?

This weed spreads very easily. Even a small piece of a stem will re-grow and can survive in shade. The stem pieces spread through water, livestock, plants, with people and in waste.

Wandering willie comes from South America.



SOME PEOPLE CAN HAVE SKIN REACTIONS TO WANDERING WILLIE. YOU MAY CHOOSE TO WEAR GLOVES WHEN HANDLING.

For more detailed information about Wandering willie and how to control its spread see: weebusters.org.nz