

# *Tradescantia spathacea*

## OYSTER PLANT

### *Commelinaceae*

Common Synonyms: *Rhoeo discolor*, *Rhoeo spathacea*

**FLEPPC Category:** 2

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

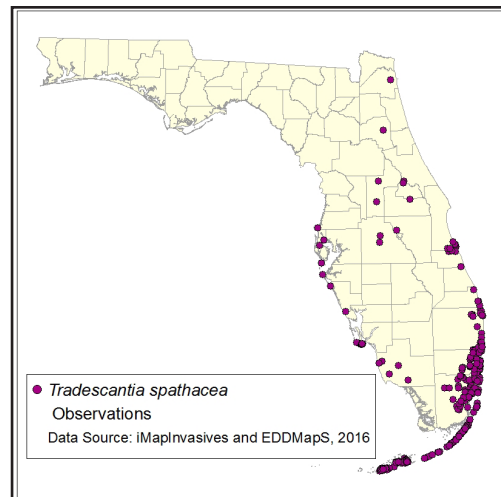
**IFAS Assessment**

North	OK
Central	OK
South	INVASIVE

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 10b-11

**Growth Habit:** Perennial herb

**Origin:** West Indies, Mexico, Central America



Dan Clark, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

**Description:** Perennial herb with short, stout stem nearly hidden by overlapping leaf bases. Forms clumps by offshoots from fleshy rootstock. Leaves spreading-erect, closely overlapping in spiral pattern. Blades broadly linear, sharp-tipped, waxy, stiff, somewhat fleshy, 15–30 cm long and 2.5–8 cm wide, upper surfaces dark green or green with pale yellow stripes; lower surfaces usually purple. Flowers small, white, clustered within a folded, boat-shaped bract (spathe) 3–4 cm long, short-stalked from leaf axils. Three petals, stamens 6, with hairy filaments. Fruit a 2-seeded capsule, in clusters within the bract.

**Habitat:** shady areas in ruderal habitats as well as coastal hammocks and shell mounds

**Comments:** Seeds thought to be dispersed by wind.

**Florida Introduction Date:** Before 1933

**Control Methods:**

Manual: Hand pull and remove from site.

Chemical: Foliar - 10% Garlon 4 (low volume) applied to bud.

**Useful Resources:**

Dave's Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: Moses-in-a-basket, *Tradescantia spathacea*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/650/>. Accessed on June 20, 2014.

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.