

Tradescantia spathacea

OYSTER PLANT

Commelinaceae

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

FLEPPC Category: 2

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

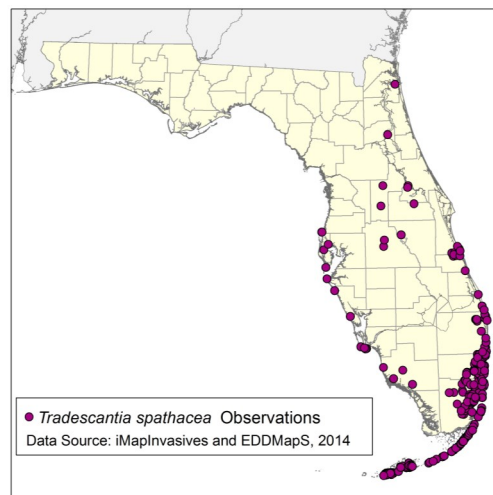
IFAS Assessment

North	OK
Central	OK
South	PROHIBITED

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.