



Zebrina

Tradescantia zebrina



The problem

Zebrina is a trailing ground cover plant native to Mexico, and cultivated for its coloured foliage. As a garden plant, it is commonly found growing rampantly in untended areas or areas that are difficult to access (steep banks, undergrowth etc.). Zebrina's ability to thrive and spread without assistance has enabled it to escape gardens and invade disturbed areas of bushland, where it forms thick carpets of growth, smothering native ground cover vegetation. Zebrina will spread across shady or damp areas, preventing the establishment of other vegetation. As an environmental weed, zebrina has the capacity to invade natural vegetation across south-east Queensland. It is currently an invasive environmental weed in north Queensland.

Description

Zebrina is closely related to Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia albiflora*), and looks similar except that the sheath at the base of the zebrina leaf is hairy. Zebrina has trailing stems with silvery green leaves 3–7 cm in length, suffused with purple on the upper side and full purple on the underside. Zebrina flowers mainly in spring – summer, and the flowers have bright pink petals.

Management strategies

Zebrina can reproduce and spread from single pieces of stem or root fragments. Careful handpulling is required in order to be certain to remove all stem and root fragments from the soil.

Regular mowing can be effective, but a catcher should be used to prevent the spread of stem pieces.

Be sure to dispose of the plant carefully, by allowing it to rot in a sealed black plastic bag for one week before placing it in a refuse bin. Zebrina is not suitable for composting or dumping in a 'green waste' section of a refuse station.

Declaration details

Zebrina is not a declared plant under the Land Protection (*Pest and Stock Route Management*) Act 2002, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF ZEBRINA

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Spot spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	500 mL to 1 L per 100 L water	PERMIT 7485	Follow-up spray on re-growth may be required.

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions.

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.



Fact sheets are available from NRW service centres and the NRW Information Centre phone (07 3237 1435). Check our web site <www.nrw.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Department of Natural Resources and Water does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.