

Tradescantia cerinthoides

COMMON NAMES

moss inch plant

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

HABITAT

Cultivation escape. Often found near houses or close to sites of former habitation. A frequent roadside weed, often found in or near illegal garden waste dumps. Does well on dry rock faces especially on lava. Can be common along coastal cliffs

GENUS

Tradescantia

FAMILY

Commelinaceae

AUTHORITY

Tradescantia cerinthoides Kunth

SYNONYMS

Tradescantia blossfeldiana

FRUITING

Seedlings found self-establishing in a Whanganui garden in 2018, though before that, most dispersal had been assumed to be from plant fragments.

YEAR NATURALISED

1985

ORIGIN

Brazil, Uruguay, N Argentina (Wikipedia)

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Drought and cold tolerant once established. Can tolerate heavy shade and full sun.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Herbaceous perennial. Mostly asexual spread (can be rather slow to establish). Seedlings found self-establishing in a Whanganui garden in 2018. Plant is usually dispersed through careless disposal of garden waste.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy - pieces of stem root freely.



Auckland. Nov 2006. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/tradescantia-cerinthoides/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026