



Community-led biocontrol for wandering trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) with the leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis*

Wandering trad is a highly invasive weed threatening native ecosystems across New South Wales. CSIRO, with support from the NSW Environmental Trust, is expanding its community-driven project to suppress wandering trad using the leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis* – a safe, host-specific biocontrol agent. We invite all interested stakeholders to register interest, receive biocontrol kits, and join a network of release sites. By participating, you will help restore native vegetation, reduce weed impacts, and contribute to sustainable, community-led weed control.



Introducing wandering trad and its impacts

Wandering trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) is a perennial, ground-covering weed that invades moist, shaded habitats, particularly along streams, rainforests, and urban bushland across eastern NSW. It forms dense mats that smother native plants, degrade habitat, and disrupt ecosystem function. Its rapid vegetative spread makes it difficult to control with conventional methods, and infestations are widespread in high conservation value areas across NSW. The weed's resilience and ability to outcompete native flora make it a priority target for biocontrol efforts.

A biocontrol solution: the leaf-smut fungus

CSIRO is leading the mass release of the leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis* as a biocontrol agent for wandering trad. This fungus is highly host-specific and safe for native plants. Once established, it infects wandering trad leaves, reducing plant vigour and abundance, and enabling native vegetation to recover. Human-assisted release is essential, as the fungus spreads slowly on its own. Previous releases in NSW have shown high establishment rates and significant reductions in wandering trad cover, with positive impacts on native plant diversity.

Project overview

This project, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust under Stage 4 Implementation Plan 1, will:

- Distribute *Kordyana brasiliensis* to new and priority sites across NSW, focusing on areas not previously treated or where further releases are needed.
- Provide biocontrol kits and clear instructions for release and monitoring.
- Support participants through workshops and training.
- Monitor weed and native vegetation responses at established sites, building robust evidence for ecosystem recovery.
- Develop integrated management guidelines to combine biocontrol with other weed control methods.

How you can get involved

CSIRO invites land managers, Indigenous groups, community organisations, and interested individuals to participate in the release and monitoring of the leaf-smut fungus. Participants will receive:

- Biocontrol kits containing viable fungal spores and detailed instructions.
- Access to training workshops and ongoing support.
- Opportunities to contribute data and feedback via national platforms.
- The chance to join a collaborative network working towards sustainable weed management.

Who eligible to participate

All interested stakeholders are welcome. The program is especially suited to:

- Landholders, and community groups managing wandering trad.
- Indigenous organisations interested in co-designing and delivering biocontrol activities.
- Local councils, government agencies, and conservation volunteers.

CSIRO will provide the fungus, training, and monitoring guidelines. Participants are responsible for site access and local approvals. To learn more, visit: <https://research.csiro.au/wandering-trad/current-research/>

To submit an express interest, please email: tradbiocontrol@csiro.au.

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If you would like to chat to someone on the CSIRO wander trad biocontrol team, please call:

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research.csiro.au/wandering-trad/current-research/