**Tradescantia spathacea**  
**OYSTER PLANT**  
**Commelinaeae**

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

**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

**Florida Introduction Date:** Before 1933  
**Control Methods:** Manual: Hand pull and remove from site.  
Chemical: Foliar - 10% Garlon 4 (low volume) applied to bud. Also foliar treatment with 3-10% triclopyr in water or oil applied to buds, or 2% glyphosate (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, 2011).  
**Useful Resources:**  

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