

***Tradescantia spathacea***

oyster plant



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**Appearance:** 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 (6-12 in) long and 2.5-8 cm (1-3 in) 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, 6 stamens with hairy stalks.

**Fruit:** A 2-seeded capsule, in clusters within the bract.

**Ecological threat:**

Forms dense ground cover and clumps quickly. Has escaped into coastal tropical hammocks, where the dense cover prevents seedling growth of native canopy tree species. FLEPPC Category I



**Distribution:** SW, SE

**Field Notations**

TRADSPAT/TRSP8

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>