

Chinese violet

(*Asystasia gangetica* subsp. *micrantha*)

Regional priority weed objective: Eradicate

Chinese violet is a high risk species targeted for eradication in NSW. While some undesirable species are obvious, Chinese violet looks harmless enough until you take note of the way it spreads. As an environmental weed, it smothers other ground plants and displaces vegetation, which reduces the availability of habitat for native plants and animals and therefore reduces biodiversity.



- Description:** Mat-forming perennial creeper.
- Leaves:** Leaves in opposite pairs and oval to triangular in shape.
- Flowers:** The flowers appear late summer but can be all year round, and are bell-shaped white with two purple marks in the centre.
- Seeds:** Seeds are club-shaped containing four flattened black seeds.
- Habitat:** Naturalising in clumps in disturbed habitats, suburban yards, and in shaded sites in creek banks, forests and riparian areas.
- Problems**
- Invades bushland and smothers vegetation.
 - Rapid growth rate.
 - Grows in both shaded and exposed sites, including maintained turf.
 - Seed remain viable for years.

Chinese violet

Declaration and control

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These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the state. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practicable objective.

Control

Your local council weeds officer will assist with identification, control information and removal of this weed. Infestations can be spread by inappropriate control activities. New infestations can develop from any rhizomes that are moved or dropped during control activities. Early detection and eradication will prevent the spread of this weed.

Do not attempt control on your own as Chinese violet can spread very easily from both seeds and stems.

If you have seen, or think you have seen, Chinese violet, please contact Rous County Council on (02) 6623 3800 for positive identification.

Where is it found?

Chinese violet is native to India, the Malay Peninsula and Africa. It is a major weed overseas, notably in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Pacific islands, where it infests crops such as rubber and coffee, but particularly palm oil plantations.

The subspecies has become invasive in Australia, with its first recording as naturalised made in NSW, at Boat Harbour, north of Newcastle in 1999. It is now known to occur in a number of nearby locations, and was found at South West Rocks near Kempsey on the NSW Mid North coast in 2009.

In 2018 it was found at Uki on the Far North Coast of NSW, in the Tweed Shire, where it is thought to be from a roadside dumping.

These infestations are currently subject to an eradication program.

Key points

- Chinese violet is a mat-forming creeper that can smother more desirable plants.
- Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective forms of weed control.
- Avoid creating bare areas where weeds can invade.



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