

Catalogue of the National Plant Collection of:  
*Tradescantia Andersoniana* Group &  
*Tradescantia virginiana* cultivars  
Including additional plants from David Simpson's collection.



David Simpson with his National Plant Collection. Credit: Mandy Bradshaw

Hardy *Tradescantia* aren't nearly as well known as the houseplant variety. David Simpson wants to change that and has provided some beautiful cultivars from his National Collection of *Tradescantia Andersoniana* Group and *Tradescantia virginiana*.

***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Angel Eyes'**

Attractive mid green foliage up to 450cm and white flower petals, often streaked with light purple in the centre. A dense cluster of dark purple filament hairs and stamens make this cultivar stand out. Established with a description by Plant Delights (1998, p. 52). Seedling from *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Snowcap', selected some time before 1996 by Kevin Vaughn (personal correspondence, February 2022).

***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Baby Doll'**

A diminutive form up to 30cm with light green foliage that tends to spread out into a rosette. Flowers are profuse and early. Lavender/ light purple blue flower petals with a cluster of dark purple filament hairs and stamens. Excellent cultivar for the front of border or a container.

First listed for sale by Royal Horticultural Society (2000, p. 717). Established with a description by Rowe (2025).

***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Baerbel'**

The name is a diminutive form of Barbara in German. This robust perennial has mid to dark green foliage and dark purple flowers with purple filament hairs and stamens. Can be susceptible to leaf streaking, increasing after flowering. Cutting back end of July can produce fresh, clean foliage. Introduced in 1974 by Bornimer Staudenkulturen (1975, p. 65).

***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Bilberry Ice'**

A charming cultivar with fresh green foliage up to 60cm. Striking white flowers with a bright lilac stripe down the centre of each petal and bright pink filament hairs. Very narrow leaves. First listed for sale in Royal Horticultural Society (1991, p. 523). Established by Rowe (2025).

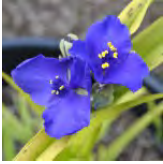
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Blanca'**

As the name suggests, a white flowered cultivar but with mauve filament hairs. The flowers are quite small in profusion, but discernably different from the pure whites. Mid green foliage up to 70cm. Listed for sale by Royal Horticultural Society (2001, p. 714). Established by Rowe (2025). Not to be confused with: *Tradescantia* 'Blanca' [2022], an invalid name for a different cultivar.

***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Blue'**

Not a true blue, as the name would suggest. The petals are more of a deep purple or amethyst hue but with dark blue filament hairs. This cultivar is robust and reliable, with mid green foliage that remains healthy throughout the season.

### *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Blue & Gold'



First listed with no description by Royal Horticultural Society (1998, p. 697) and established by Hawke (2010). Hawke (2010) originally designated 'Blue and Gold' as the valid name and 'Sweet Kate' as a synonym, but this was later confirmed to be a mistake (Richard Hawke, personal correspondence, May 2022). The earlier established name *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Sweet Kate' is now accepted for this cultivar. Striking deep blue flowers set on bright yellow foliage.

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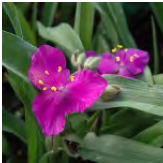
### *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Blue Stone'



A personal favourite and, in my opinion, the best blue cultivar. The mid to dark green foliage is a good foil for the striking rich blue/purple flowers and dark blue filaments. My photographs don't do it justice. Established with a description by Huntington (1940, p. 46). Originates from England (Huntington, 1940, p. 46).

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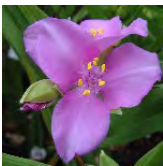
### *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) Carmine Glow ('Karminglut')



**Not established**, an invalidly published name for the cultivar correctly called *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Karminglut'. Published with no description by Royal Horticultural Society (1987, p. 391), and described by Burncoose & South Down Nurseries (1992, p. 56). It is a translation of the original name, so it cannot be established (Brickell et al., 2016, Art. 32.1). Dirty pink flowers on dark green foliage to 60cm. The original name 'Karminglut' is now accepted for this cultivar.

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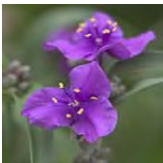
### *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Charlotte'



A 'run of the mill' cultivar with dull pink flowers and mid green foliage that does not excite. Better pinks exist and this one is not popular with nurseries as a result. It is nevertheless a robust and reliable cultivar which deserves a place in the Collection. Published with no description by Boomteelt Praktijkonderzoek (1995, p. 289). Established by Rowe (2025).

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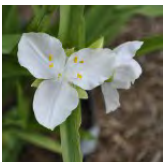
### *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Concord Grape' AGM



Possibly the best deep mauve flowers of any cultivar, with attractive mid green, glaucous foliage up to 60cm. a striking Kevin Vaughn introduction which has been popular for many years and is a parent of the recently introduced 'JS Brainstorm'. Established with a description by Plant Delights (1998, p. 52). OriginsSeedling descended from T&M seed lots, selected and named by Kevin Vaughn (personal correspondence, January 2022).

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### *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Danielle'



An outstanding cultivar obtained from Elizabeth MacGregor in Kirkubricht, Scotland. Very rare in cultivation which is surprising given its outstanding qualities. Possibly the largest pure white flowers in the Andersoniana Group of cultivars, some almost 6cm across and with pure white fluffy filaments. Early and long flowering with fresh, light green foliage up to 45cm, this plant is a superb example and worthy of a place in any garden.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'David's Blaby Blue'**



With porcelain blue petals and darker purple/blue filaments, this rare and delicate cultivar was obtained from possibly the only source in the UK. However, the specimen I have is currently in quarantine due to contamination by rogue seedlings which have dominated the plant. It is planned to establish the correct, clean parts and restore the plant to the Collection in 2026. The plant has been split into 4 accessions for verification.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Domaine de Courson'**



Similar in many ways to 'Bilberry Ice', This cultivar also has white flowers with a stripe down the centre of each petal. However, in this case, the stripe is deep mauve with darker mauve filaments. Another very striking example of a bi-coloured flower. Mid green foliage to 45cm. Published with no description by Royal Horticultural Society (1995, p. 669). Established by Rowe (2025). Available from a small number of nurseries in France.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Euridice'**



Pronounced 'you-rid-isee', this cultivar has pale blue petals fading to white at the edges, with dark blue filaments. Fresh green foliage to 55cm is lighter than many others which only serves to improve the attraction. A very striking example. Origins recorded by Spruyt (2003). Hybrid of *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Osprey' and *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Blue Stone' in 1991. Introduced in 1994 by Gustaaf Van Mulders. Registered in 1998 by Jan Spruyt.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Good Luck'<sup>PBR</sup>**



Darker green foliage sets off the mid-purple flowers which have a darker central area, bleeding out to the edges. Origins documented by Strooper-Dekker V.O.F. (2012). Seedling from two unnamed *Tradescantia* Andersoniana Group parents, selected in 2006 in Anna Paulowna, the Netherlands. Bred and named by Jan Strooper, introduced by Strooper-Dekker V.O.F.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'In the Navy'**



Despite the inference in the name, the flower colour is certainly not 'Navy Blue', but more of a very pale blue / white with fluffy white and blue filaments. Fresh green foliage to 45cm. An attractive, robust and reliable cultivar.

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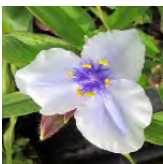
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Innocence'**



One of the oldest and most popular white varieties, with large white petals and purple filaments. Mid green foliage to 50cm. Established with a description by Frikart (1959, p. 63). The alternative name 'L'Innocence' is assumed to be a misspelling (Erhardt & Erhardt, 1995, p. 464).

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Iris Prichard'**



An old established and popular white variety. The porcelain white, mauve streaked flower petals, dark purple filaments and mid green fluted foliage make this an outstanding cultivar. Established with a description by Foerster (1934, p.13). The name is sometimes misspelled 'Iris Pritchard' (Blooming Advantage, 2020).

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Isis'**



Deep purplish blue petals, stamens and filaments atop fresh green short foliage to 40cm. Can be susceptible to leaf streaking in late summer. First published with no description by Burncoose & South Down Nurseries (1984, p. 35). The name was established with the first known published description by Burncoose & South Down Nurseries (1992, p. 56). The name has been misspelled 'Iris' (Buckley, 1977, as cited in Hatch, 2021).

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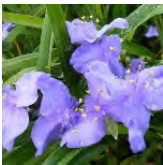
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'J S Brainstorm'**



A chance seedling of T. 'Concord Grape' discovered in the prairie garden of Jan Spruyt in the Belgian province of East Flanders in 2018. Introduced as a new variety at Chelsea 2023 to great acclaim and one of several runners up as 'Plant of the Year'. Foliage is blue-green with a purple tinge to 40 cm.. Profuse flowers from May onwards. 2.5-3cm across. Very dark purple. Compared to 'Concord Grape', 'JS Brainstorm' is lower growing with darker foliage and flowers.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'J.C. Weguelin'**



Named for James Crawford Weguelin, this old established variety was first referenced in 1929. Its large, pointed azure blue flowers and fresh green foliage to 45cm make for a striking plant.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Leonora'**



Large sky blue flowers, stamens and filaments atop fresh mid green foliage. Tall, up to 70cm, and often requiring support. An old established variety and still very popular. Established with a description by Vaughan's Seed Company (1933, p. 82). Introduced by Vaughan's Seed Company (1933, p. 82)

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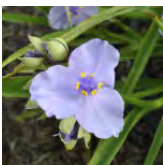
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Light Blue'**



As the name suggests, this cultivar has lightish blue flowers with darker blue filaments and stamens. Fresh green, prominently ribbed foliage to 50cm. Very pleasing but unexceptional. Only one supplier in the UK and unregistered with the RHS may indicate this to be a synonym for another established variety, or a chance seedling named only for marketing purposes.

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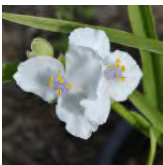
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Little Doll'**



Confusion exists between this variety and T. 'Baby Doll', with thoughts they could be the same. Short and dense foliage topped with pale blue flowers with darker blue stamens and filament hairs. A delightful front of border plant. First listed for sale with no description by Royal Horticultural Society (1997, p. 657). Established with a description by Plant Delights (1999, p. 29, with reference to their spring catalog).

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Little White Doll'**



First made available in 2000, this white version of T. 'Little Doll' is just 25cm high. Narrow mid green foliage and white petals with fluffy white and pale blue filaments and stamens.

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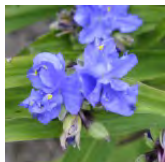
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Lucky Charm'<sup>PBR</sup>**



Part of the 'Charm' series from Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon, USA. This cultivar features dark purple flowers above fresh light green/yellow foliage, Very striking and unusual. Bred by Janet Egger in Wilsonville, Oregon, USA in 2012, to create a more compact improvement on *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Sweet Kate'. Selected as a seedling between unnamed seed and pollen parents.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Mac's Double'**



One of very few double flowered cultivars, 'Mac's Double' has lavender blue flowers with two sets of petals, blue stamens and filaments. My example suffers from early onset of leaf streaking. Introduced in 2003 by unknown source. Possibly a seedling hybrid of *Tradescantia virginiana* 'Caerulea Plena'.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Melissa'**



Late and sparsly flowered, this attractive rose pink cultivar is now only available from a small number of nurseries in Europe. Dark green foliage to 45cm.

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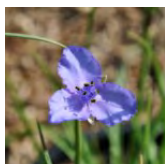
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Merlot Clusters'**



Documented by Gooderham (2010). Mutation from an unspecified plant, found in Bressingham, England. Upright. 45cm high. Foliage is moderate yellowish green, in spring flushed red purple. Flowers 3cm across. Petals are yellowish white, flushing violet blue towards the centre. Striking dark purple buds resemble a small bunch grapes.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Mrs Loewer'**



Smoky blue narrow leaved foliage, tall and sparse. 50cm high. Flowers of soft lavender. Origins documented by Plant Delights (2020). Collected in Goodwin, Arkansas by Larry Lowman of Ridgecrest Nursery. Named after the landowner, Elizabeth Loewer. Because it is a wild collection, this plant is accepted as true *Tradescantia ohiensis* instead of a hybrid from the Andersoniana Group.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Ocean Blue'**



This is attractive cultivar has foliage to 75cm with light powdery-blue flowers, with slightly darker filaments. A very striking and elegant cultivar.

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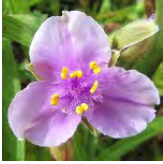
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Osprey'**



One of the most popular and widely available cultivars. Large, snow-white flowers with deep violet stamens and filaments. Lightish green foliage to 65cm.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Pauline'**



A well established cultivar, this attractive plant has uniform silver-pink flowers with darker pink stamens and filaments. Possibly also known as 'Rosi' in parts of Europe.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Perrine's Pink'**



Notable for its pointed pale pink flowers, darker pink stamens and filaments, this cultivar has mid green glaucous foliage to 50cm. First published with no description by Royal Horticultural Society with the misspelling 'Perinne's Pink' (2004, p. 733). The spelling 'Perrine's Pink' is now universally used and accepted as correct.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Pink Chablis'**



This well established, popular cultivar has fan shaped flower petals in white, strongly flushed with pink. The stamens and filaments are a dark pink. Foliage is lightish green and profuse. A striking and very attractive variety. Unknown seedling, selected by Marcus Wilhelmus Gerardus van Noort in Warmond, the Netherlands in 1999 (van Noort, 2005).

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Pink Dome'**



A plant acquired from an Ebay seller with no provenance. May well be a chance hybrid seedling. However, the plant is stable, tall with attractive pinkish flowers. Foliage to 85cm and requiring support.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Purewell Giant'**



A long established cultivar with large violet flowers with matching stamens and filaments on tall foliage to 90cm in ideal conditions. Requires support. Possibly the tallest cultivar in the Andersoniana Group.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Purple Dome'**



Another old established cultivar with bright purple flowers, stamens and filaments atop dark green mounded foliage. Large and vigorous.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Red Grape'**



Similar in many respects to T. 'Concord Grape', but taller, in my experience, often reaching 80cm in ideal conditions. Narrow glaucous green/blue foliage with vivid purple flowers with pointed petals. A very striking example and, in my opinion, better all round than T. 'Concord Grape'. Introduced by Kevin Vaughn in 1998.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Rubra'**



Although obtained from a reputable source, the officially described colour of 'bright magenta-red' has never been achieved. My example is more of a dark pink. Established by Wrede (1819, p. 55). Because it was published before 1959, the Latin name with no description can be accepted (Brickell et al., 2016, Arts. 21.11, 27.1). The name was originally spelled 'Rubro' (Wrede, 1819, p. 55), but this is correct to match the grammatical gender of the genus (Brickell et al., 2016, Art. 21.8).

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Satin Doll'<sup>PBR</sup>**



Undoubtedly the smallest cultivar in the National Collection at just 25-30cm, but with large magenta flowers over narrow grass-like foliage. A delightful English bred variety from two unknown pollen parents. A delightful, hardy and robust example, despite its diminutive size and form.

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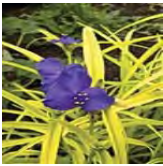
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Sunshine Charm'<sup>PBR</sup>**



Another introduction in the 'Charm' series, this cultivar has strong purple flowers, stamens and filaments over bright yellow foliage. Seedling from a planned cross between seed parent *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Sweet Kate' and an unnamed pollen parent (Egger, 2010).

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Sweet Kate'**



Hawke (2010) considered 'Blue and Gold' to be the earliest name and 'Sweet Kate' a synonym, but this was later confirmed to be a mistake (Richard Hawke, personal correspondence, May 2022). 'Sweet Kate' is now accepted, as the oldest and most widespread name in use. Discovered by Mrs Stevens in her garden, introduced by Hillier Nurseries ("*Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group)", 2000). Strong powdery blue flowers with dark purple stamens and filaments over bright green foliage, fading to yellow.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Sylvana'**



A dark pink flower over dark green foliage to 40cm. Listed for sale since 2002, although possibly older than that in Europe. The colour appears to vary from the original and is no longer as dark as when acquired. Possibly caused by soil alkalinity.

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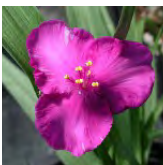
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Temptation'**



A very attractive white and pink cultivar resulting from a cross between *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Innocence' and *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Rubra' (P.Th. Warmerdam B.V., 2002). Flower petals are white with mottled purple cast. Stamens and filaments are bright purple / dark pink. Fresh green foliage to 50cm. An excellent cultivar only rarely available in the UK.

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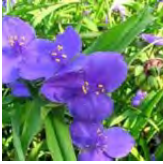
***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Valour'**



A well established cultivar with velvety purple flowers over mid green foliage to 50cm. Often the earliest to flower with me, usually by mid-May.

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***Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Zwanenburg Blue'**



Characterised by its large deep blue flowers, this widely available cultivar is well established in the UK and rightly popular. However, I have found it can be susceptible to leaf spotting and streaking. Mid green foliage to 45cm.

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***Tradescantia virginiana***



The species plant. One of three species identified by ES Anderson as being pollen parents of most hybrids in the Andersoniana Group. A very attractive plant with tall mid green foliage to 60cm, mid-blue flowers, blue stamens and filaments.

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***Tradescantia virginiana* 'Alba'**



A white version of the species plant, *T. virginiana* but rarely available in the UK. A shorter plant and with smaller flowers than the species. The flowers have a hint of purple bleeding out from the centre, purple stamens and white filaments which make for a very attractive combination.

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***Tradescantia virginiana* 'Brevicaulis'**



A cultivar of *T. virginiana* with cyclamen-pink to blue-purple three-petaled flowers. It is characterized by lush green, slightly less coarse foliage than typical hybrids. *Brevicaulis* meaning short stemmed. Originally published as the species *Tradescantia brevicaulis* (Rafinesque, 1832, p. 150). This is now considered a botanical synonym for *Tradescantia virginiana* (POWO, 2022), so it is now treated as a cultivar of the species with the same name (Brickell et al., 2016, Art. 2.4).

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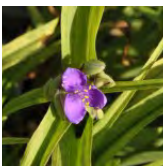
***Tradescantia virginiana* 'Caerulea Plena'**



A double-flowered version of the species plant, *T. virginiana*. Periwinkle-blue flowers over tall fresh green foliage to 60cm. Double-flowered Tradescantias are rare and highly prized. *Caerulea* meaning blue and *plena* meaning full or plump.

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***Tradescantia virginiana* 'Rubra'**



Not to be confused with *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) 'Rubra', this is a reddish purple version of the species plant, *Tradescantia virginiana*. It is similarly tall at 60-70cm.

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