

Lantana

Lantana camara

Description

Fast growing shrub to 3 – 4 m high.

Stems: Prickly and square in cross section.

Leaves: Dark green with finely toothed edges. Strong odour when crushed.

Flowers: Flowerheads 20 – 30 mm across and consist of a cluster of tiny tubular flowers, all year round.

Flower clusters are white, cream, yellow, orange, pink, red, purple or a mixture of these.

Fruit: In clusters of green berries, turning black when ripe.

Origin

Native of central America.

Was introduced to New Zealand as a garden plant.

Where is it found?

Lantana is generally found in coastal areas but will grow almost anywhere. It likes dry sites with poor fertility and is often grown in gardens.

How does it spread?

Seed spread by birds.

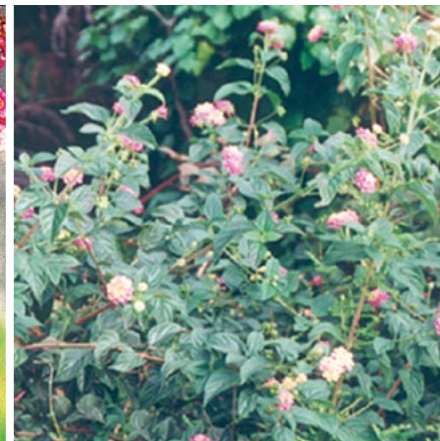
Plants send up suckers which form thickets.

Why is it a problem?

Lantana colonises coastal areas, forming dense thickets, displacing native vegetation.

Is shade tolerant and may dominate the undergrowth of open forest.

Lantana is poisonous and is one of the worst invasive weeds worldwide.



Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Lantana is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any lantana on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread lantana in the Bay of Plenty.

Assistance may be available from Bay of Plenty Regional Council by way of approved programmes.

For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer

CAUTION: When using herbicide please READ THE LABEL thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

How do I get rid of it?

Manual

Small plants can be dug out ensuring all roots are removed and disposed of safely.

Spraying

Spray from November to March.

Spray with metsulfuron (e.g. Escort, Meturon, Matrix).

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 5 g per 10 L of water.

Always add penetrant (e.g. Pulse, organosilicone) at 10 ml per 10 L spray mix.

Stump treatment

Is often possible for single plants. Use at any time of year:

Use glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®) at the rate of 1 part glyphosate to 4 parts water (e.g. 1 cup to 4 cups).

Cut the plants down as close as possible to the ground.

Apply herbicide mix liberally to the cut surface and sides of the stump to ground level using a small trigger sprayer or paintbrush.

