

Lantana

NSW State Priority Weed

Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, all landholders have a “General Biosecurity Duty” to manage any “Biosecurity Risk” posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds. These weeds can impact on human health, the economy, the liveability of our City and the environment. Impacts can include allergies and other health issues, costs of control, loss of tourism value, degradation of natural landscapes, parks and recreation facilities, reduction of useful agricultural land and loss of primary production, loss of biodiversity and water quality.

A WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The plant must be eradicated from the land and be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed; and the land must be kept free of the plant.

Scientific name

Lantana spp.

(Family:Verbenaceae)

Description

Habit: Lantana is a heavily branching shrub which grows in dense thickets or clumps 2 m to 4 m. The stems are square with short hooked prickles.

Leaves: Leaves are mid-green, oval, deeply wrinkled and hairy and 20 mm to 100 mm long with toothed edges. They are opposite on the stem. Crushing leaves or stems produces a strong characteristic smell.

Flowers: Flowering most of the year and particularly between October and April. Lantana flowers grow in clusters of approximately twenty to forty individual flowers which vary in colour. There are five colour types: pink, white, pink-edged red, red and orange.

Fruit: Fruit is a cluster of fleshy, purplish-black berries.



Photo source: BMCC Bushcare.



Photo source: Matt Rudge

Dispersal

Fruit-eating birds are the main source of dispersal, spreading seed in their droppings. Mammals are also known to eat and disperse seed. Lantana can also spread by layering (this is where stems take root when they are in contact with moist soil).

Impacts

Invades bushland where it forms thickets and dense shade displacing native vegetation. Infestations of lantana create fuel loads for fire.

Current distribution

Lapstone to Faulconbridge

Control

- Hand pull seedlings and small plants, after loosening the soil with a trowel.
- Cut and paint larger plants. As cut stems can layer profusely in moist areas, these should be placed securely off the ground to avoid contact with soil.
- Spray large dense patches of lantana where there are no native plants.



Hand Removal



Cut and Paint

Plant this instead

Local provenance Grevilleas, Banksias and Hakeas make great hedge plants and habitat for native birds. *Hakea teretifolia*, *Lambertia formosa* and *Leucopogon lanceolata* are all spiky bushes that provide shelter and protection for small native birds.

In the lower mountains plant *Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa*.

Control illustrations by Virginia Bear.



NEW SOUTH WALES
WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

For more information on weed identification, control methods, herbicide use and weed contractors see:
Blue Mountains City Council - Bushland Operations Team | <http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weeds> | Phone: 4780 5000

BLUE MOUNTAINS - NO PLACE FOR WEEDS