



WEEDS

COMMON LANTANA

Glossary

Ovate

Egg-shaped.

Perennial

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons.

Rhizomes

A creeping stem, usually below ground from which new aerial shoots arise.

Scrambling

Climbing

Serrate

Toothed so as to resemble a saw.

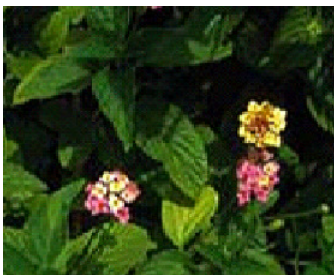
For More Information

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Lantana camara

Introduction

Lantana is a thicket-forming shrub that has spread from gardens into pastures and woodlands. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness and potential to spread. It invades disturbed sites, especially open sunny areas, such as roadsides, cultivated pastures and fence lines, and around water courses and streams. It also threatens agricultural and pastoral production. Parts of plant are poisonous if ingested. Handling plant may cause skin irritation or allergic reaction.

Origin

The Americas, Mexico, South America

Status

A weed of National Significance. Banned from sale in nurseries in WA.

Life form

Perennial shrub

Description

Lantana is an aggressive, scrambling, prickly, evergreen shrub with arching, spreading branches; up to 3 m tall.

Leaves: Ovate; serrate; rough to touch.

Flowers/Seed heads: Many coloured: pale cream, yellow, orange, pink with yellow centre ("eye") common; arranged in flat heads; with 20-40 petals.

Reproduction & Dispersal

Reproduction is via seeds. Seeds are dispersed by water, birds or animals that ingest the blackberry fruits. Seeds that are ingested have the potential to spread over large distances and are more likely to germinate. It can also regenerate and spread via the underground root system and rhizomes.

Growing Habit

Can form a dense tangled mass and thickets however, variations in habit also produce ground cover and bush forms.

Distribution

Scattered populations: north of Halls Creek, north of Broome, Geraldton, Perth and Albany.

Growing Season

Frequently occurs after first summer storms, but also when sufficient moisture is present.

Flowering Season

March/June–August

Fruits

Blackberries which ripen from green-purple/black; edible; contain seeds.

Effect on Ecosystem

The species is extremely

vigorous and completely out-competes native species. It typically invades bushland and river margins, extending its range in response to rainfall.

It also releases chemicals into the surrounding soil which prevents the germination of native species.

Control

For best results, integrate fire, mechanical, chemical and biological control and revegetation.

Manual Removal

Best results are obtained from working in areas of light infestation towards heavier infestation and long-term follow-up control is required after initial attempts. Minimise disturbance to land and excessive use of fire to retain vigorous native vegetation. Smaller plants may be hand pulled, taking care to remove the root system as well.

Chemical Treatment

There are many herbicides registered for control and three main techniques; foliar spraying, basal bark method and cut stump. woody species.

Please see 'Herbicides and Pesticides' factsheet for more information about spraying chemicals and Weed Management Guide.

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