



SEPTEMBER 2008

### ***Lantana camara*** **LANTANA**

There are two varieties of Lantana which are declared noxious in the Sutherland Shire, they are the Pink and Red Flower variety. The Pink Flower is the most common, being the most widespread and abundant in eastern Australia.

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Lantana is a perennial, erect or scrambling shrub, growing to five metres high and often forming dense thickets. The leaves are opposite and curved, egg shaped to spearhead with toothed edges; rough and bright green; 2 to 10 cm long by 2 to 8 cm wide. Flowers are borne in dense clusters about 2.5 cm wide. Colours can vary from red/yellow, pink/yellow or orange/pink. Fruit is a succulent one-seeded berry about 6 to 8 mm in diameter. It is green at first then shiny dark purple to black when ripe and borne in clusters. This plant is easily identified as it has four-sided stems with short, curved and hooked prickles and when the leaves are crushed they have a strong aromatic odour.

#### **EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Mature Lantana plants shade other plants and compete for moisture because of their extensive shallow root system. It can rapidly colonise areas forming dense infestations and often becomes the dominant understorey in urban bushland to the detriment of natural plant communities. The Red Flowering variety is known to be poisonous and poisoning is most commonly seen in cattle.

#### **HABITAT**

Lantana appears to have no special habitat preference, it can be found growing in virtually all vegetation associations. It occurred initially as a weed along roadsides, fence lines and neglected or waste areas. Lantana often grows in inaccessible areas making eradication difficult.



Flowers and immature fruit (Pink flowered form).  
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

## ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION

Lantana is a native to Central America and was introduced into Australia as an ornamental, recorded in Camden Park in 1843. In 1992 over 4 million hectares in Australia was infested with Lantana. It is widespread from Cape York Peninsula in Queensland to Ulladulla on the south coast of NSW. Existing Lantana colonies increase in size and density by suckering and seedling growth within and along the edges of thickets.

Due to the large quantities of berries produced, birds are the major agents for long distance distribution and the nursery trade is also known to sell Lantana.

## DECLARATION

Lantana has been gazetted as a noxious weed in all areas of the state. The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 is an instrument serving the protection of our environment, general health of the community and agricultural production. Under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 all noxious weeds must be controlled. The act applies to all landowners and occupiers. This weed has a control category of class 4. For class 4 noxious weeds: *“The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority”*. Failure to comply with the prescribed categories may result in a fine of 100 penalty units.

## CONTROL

Either dig out plant including the root ball or Cut and Paint with Glyphosate 360g/L. Alternatively spray entire plant with Glyphosate in accordance with the label recommendations and follow all safety directions as indicated on the label.



Large clumps exclude all other plants.  
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

