



Lantana (*Lantana camara*)

- Scientific name & Code:** *Lantana camara* (L.), LACA2
Synonyms – *Lantana aculeata* L., *Lantana tilliaefolia* auct. non Cham.
- Family:** Verbenaceae (Verbena family)
- Common names:** English – Lantana, red sage, shrub verbena, yellow sage, wild sage
Chamorro – n/a
- Origin:** West Indies, Central America
- Description:** Erect, perennial shrub with rambling branches (may be prickly). Leaves oval-shaped (ovate), stiff, toothed (serrate) with stiff bristles, 4-8 cm long, 2-5.5 cm wide, spicy-pungent when rubbed. Flowering spikes head-like. Tube-like flowers crowded, youngest ones central and pale, older flowers orange, oldest ones red (or white). Fruits are dark blue to black at maturity.
- Propagation:** The fruits are dispersed by birds and rodents. Basal shoots sprout from crown of plant following fire.
- Distribution:** Tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Identified on Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam.
- Habitat / Ecology:** Weedy shrub of cultivated land, fencelines, pastures, rangelands, and waste areas. Thrives in dry or wet places in valleys, mountains, and coastal areas. Somewhat shade tolerant so it can become established in savannahs and tree plantations. Can survive all but the hottest of fires and resprouts from basal shoots.
- Environmental impact:** The thorny shrub forms a dense impenetrable understory that crowds out and inhibits establishment of other species. Shoots and roots produce chemicals toxic to other plants (allelopathic). Can form pure stands that can render the land useless for other purposes. Contains the toxic chemical Lantadene that causes photosensitivity in animals forced to graze it.
- Management:** Physical – Small plants and infestations can be pulled, older plants must be dug out. Burning without follow-up treatments is ineffective. Some evidence that trampling during intensive grazing is effective.
Chemical – Susceptible to translocated herbicides, including 2,4-D, Glyphosate, Fosamine, Dichlorprop, and Triclopyr. Probably susceptible to residual herbicides such as Hexazinone and Bromacil.
Biological – Several control agents are available and are often very effective. *Epinota lantana* (Tortricidae – Tortrix moths), *Lantanophaga pusillidactyla* (Pterophoridae – Plume moths), *Ophiomyia lantanae* (Agromyzidae – leaf-miner flies), and *Uroplata girardi* (Chrysomelidae – leaf-mining beetle) have all been released with some success in Guam and the CNMI. Treatments, monitoring, and evaluation of these and a dozen other species is in progress.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 21



a) *Lantana infestation*



b) *Lantana flowers and leaves*



c) *Clustered sub-mature fruits of Lantana*



d) *Lantana flowers and (serrate) leaves*



e) *Lantana flowers and leaves*

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