

# Lantana Control in QLD and NSW

## Introduction

Lantana (*Lantana camara*) is a native to the tropical and sub-tropical regions of Central and South America. It occurs throughout most coastal and sub-coastal areas of Queensland and New South Wales. Lantana grows in sunny exposed areas, cultivated pastures, forests with open canopy, roadsides and fence lines.

## Growth Habit

Lantana is a heavily branched shrub varying in growth habit from compact clumps to rambling shrubs or climbers. The stems are square in cross section with backwardly curved prickles along the angles. Flowers may vary in colour from pale cream to yellow, white, pink, red, lilac and purple. Flowers differ in colour even on the same plant and may change colour with age, therefore it may be difficult to identify Lantana correctly.

## Toxicity

Most types of Lantana are poisonous to stock. Poisoning usually occurs in stock newly introduced to areas where toxic forms grow. Avoid placing animals in these areas during periods of drought. Young animals appear to be most susceptible. The degree of poisoning depends on plant variety, amount eaten and availability of other feed. Early symptoms include head swaying, loss of appetite, constipation and frequent urination. Eyes and skin of the nose and mouth become jaundice. The animal becomes increasingly sensitive to light and finally the muzzle becomes inflamed, moist and very painful ("pink nose"). Death commonly occurs 1-4 weeks after symptoms occur. In an acute form, death occurs 3-4 days after eating the plant.

## Mechanical Control

Top growth can be removed by stickraking or ploughing. Regrowth from stumps and/or seedlings is usually profuse and requires chemical treatment or further ploughing. Mechanical removal of Lantana may cause unacceptable soil loss due to erosion and may allow other weeds to invade. Seeds will continue to germinate on the site for many years, so soil disturbance should be kept to a minimum.

## Control by Fire

Fire is often used before chemical control. Burning will reduce the number of plants in dense stand and reduce follow up spraying costs. Establishment of pasture into burnt or sprayed areas can provide competition for Lantana regrowth.

## Chemical Control

Lantana 600 Herbicide is the most cost effective method of control. Lantana 600 was developed specifically for Lantana control at the Alan Fletcher Research Station by the Queensland Department of Lands. Red flowered Lantanas are the most difficult to control and pink flowered varieties are the easiest. Due to the plants multi-stemmed nature, basal bark spraying has not been successful. The preferred method of application is overall spraying provided that complete coverage of the foliage is achieved to the point of runoff. Foliar applications result in the herbicide moving throughout branches, stems and roots for best possible control. The best results are obtained with Lantana 600 herbicide when plants are actively growing after a recent rainfall event. Lantana 600 has minimal effect on grasses therefore grasses can compete and reduce the level of subsequent Lantana germinations.



### Managing Dense Infestations

A combination of fire and follow-up spraying can reduce dense infestations of Lantana. The following management programs are recommended:

1. Burn bushes in the dry months, or spray with Lantana 600 in the wet months to reduce the density of stand,
2. Sow improved pasture, or aggressive grasses to compete with any Lantana regrowth or seedling germinations,
3. Exclude stock from treated area to allow sown pasture to flourish and establish,
4. Spot spray regrowth with Lantana 600 only when it is vigorously growing.

Seeds will continue to germinate over subsequent years, therefore it is essential to continue a timely program of spraying applications to seedlings until the Lantana problem is under control.

### Withholding Period

There is no APVMA approved withholding period for Lantana 600 Herbicide. As the application of Lantana 600 Herbicide may increase the palatability of Lantana plants, livestock should be removed from the area to be treated and not returned for at least 14 days. This action will reduce the risk of livestock eating Lantana plants, which are known to be poisonous.

### Directions for Use (QLD & NSW Only)

**Restrictions:** Avoid spraying during periods of drought, extreme cold or if rain is likely within 4 hours of application.

| Situation  | Weed Controlled                                  | Rate  | Critical Comments  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Non Crop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights of way</li> <li>• Industrial areas</li> <li>• Forests</li> <li>• Roadsides</li> <li>• Fencelines</li> <li>• Treelines</li> </ul> | <b>Lantana spp</b><br>Including creeping Lantana | 1L/200L of water<br><br>5mL/L of water<br><br>6-8L/ha | <b>Hand Gun Application</b> – Completely wet all leaves and stems of target plant.<br><br><b>Knapsack rate</b> – Completely wet all leaves and stems of target plant.<br><br><b>Helicopter Rate</b> – For areas that are inaccessible to ground equipment spray by helicopter using raindrop nozzles in a minimum of 200 liters of water per hectare. Using the higher rates for mature plants. A follow up spray may be necessary.<br><br>The addition of an organosilicone penetrant at 0.1% v/v will assist with coverage and uptake. |

**NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE, OR IN ANY MANNER, CONTRARY TO THIS LABEL UNLESS AUTHORISED UNDER THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION**

Always read the entire label prior to use.

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