

Lantana



Best Practice Manual and Decision Support Tool

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Weeds of National Significance

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This manual has been produced through the cooperative efforts of the Australian Government and the Queensland and New South Wales state governments





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Foreword

In director Ray Lawrence's award-winning psychological thriller *Lantana*, the title was used as a metaphor to describe the intertwined brambles of love and deceit—an example of something that is superficially beautiful but conceals a hidden menace. Although this Weed of National Significance has achieved pop culture status as a result of the movie, it is probably true to say that the majority of moviegoers missed the significance of the title and were unaware of the serious threat lantana poses.

Lantana is considered to be one of the ten worst weeds in the world. It has invaded more than four million hectares of eastern Australia and is entrenched in our primary production areas, World Heritage Areas, our beach sides and even our backyards. It has become so much a part of the Australian landscape that, to some, the distinctive smell of its crushed leaves is synonymous with nature and 'the bush'.

The Lantana Weeds of National Significance Program—coincidentally launched in 2001, the same year the movie was released—has been striving to change public perception about this weed and increase our knowledge of how best to tackle it. This manual and Decision Support Tool form another important weapon in the arsenal of management and planning options that are being amassed to ensure we protect our most valuable economic, social and environmental assets into the future.

Building on the first Lantana Control Manual, produced in 2004, this resource provides a comprehensive source of information on lantana behaviour and biology, as well as important and practical management information. The manual provides vital guidance on the integration of control options and strips away potential confusion by providing a user-friendly Decision Support Tool to help shape management practices.

A concerted effort is required to achieve effective and strategic control of this major weed. This manual demonstrates that through planning, appropriate investment and ongoing diligence, the war on controlling lantana can be won.



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How to use this manual

What were the sources for the information provided in this manual?

The information in this manual was drawn from a series of adaptive management trials at eleven sites throughout the Queensland and New South Wales distribution of lantana. The experimental sites included a range of conservation and primary production areas with differing rainfall and climatic conditions to gain a broad picture of the response of lantana to management actions. Other information that could not be collected directly was compiled from a survey of field practices, reviews by technical experts and previously published information.

How do I use this resource?

The *Lantana Best Practice Manual* provides a comprehensive guide to the biology and ecology of the weed, the range of management options and how to integrate them, as well as information on how to plan and monitor your control activities.

Along with the Decision Support Tool, a computer-based tool to help determine the most appropriate sequence of initial and follow-up control for your particular management situation, this resource should enable the implementation of an efficient and cost-effective management program on your property.

The Lantana profile

This section provides information on the weed itself, its physical characteristics, distribution, biology and ecology.

The main body of the document is divided into four sections.

Section 1: Designing a control program—issues to consider

Use this section to identify factors that will influence your decision-making process.

This section describes the key factors that will have an impact on the feasibility of control and your decision-making process. Issues to consider include economic, climatic, varietal and land use factors.

Section 2: The lantana seven-step plan

Refer to this section for guidance on the integration of lantana into your property pest management plan.

The importance of planning, realistic goal setting and staged and integrated control are highlighted in this section. Monitoring and review techniques are included to enable the land manager to assess their achievements.

Section 3: Control methods

Refer to this section for detailed information on the available management techniques.

This section describes each control method in detail and provides guidance to determine when it is appropriate to use them. A variety of management options should be integrated into a control program to achieve the most successful management outcomes.

Section 4: Using the Decision Support Tool

Section 4 defines the key variables used in the Decision Support Tool.

The superscript numbers in the text refer to the relevant reference sources, listed in the References section on page 116.



Sections

The lantana profile

Section 1: Designing a control program—issues to consider

Section 2: The lantana seven-step plan

Section 3: Control methods

Section 4: Using the Decision Support Tool

Further information

Appendices

References