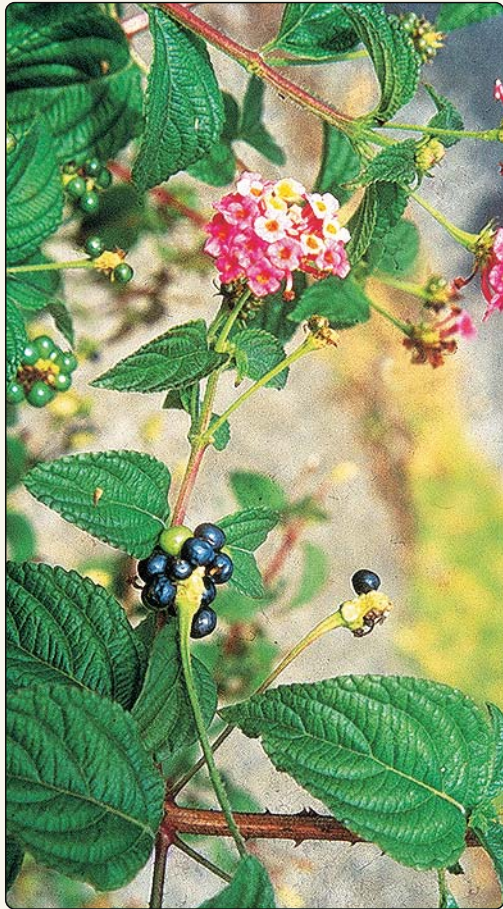


Lantana (*Lantana camara* var. *aculeata*)



Wrinkled leaves and yellow to pink flowers

Lantana is a prickly shrub, toxic to livestock, up to 4-5 m high, found mainly in coastal and shrub-land areas. It prefers a warm climate with plentiful sunshine and is a major problem in many tropical areas but only so far occurs in northern areas of New Zealand.

A popular garden plant with an aromatic smell, lantana has branched stems with recurved prickles. The leaves are very wrinkled, oval and in opposite pairs. The flower heads are clusters of small flowers of different colours ranging from yellow to pink, and the colours change as the flowers mature. The fruits are berry-like, green ripening to black.

Several species of lantana are grown in gardens, but this variety is the only one proven, to date, that sets seed. Birds, especially silvereys, disperse seed.

Small plants can be hand pulled or dug out, but all the roots must be removed. Larger bushes can be rotary slashed and the stump painted with a herbicide. Large infestations can be sprayed with herbicide, preferably in November-December.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.