

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Lantana camara*

Common name: lantana

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	“Thicket forming shrub 2 – 4 m tall. Stems are covered in prickles and interlink with adjacent plants to form dense, tangle, impenetrable thickets” (Muyt 2001). Human access severely restricted.	H	MH
2. Reduce tourism?	“It commonly forms dense mono-specific stands several metres tall...greatly reducing the area’s conservation value, making it impenetrable to people” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Major impact on recreation.	H	MH
3. Injurious to people?	“Stems are armed with sharp recurved spines” (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001). Potential to cause minor injury all year round.	MH	MH
4. Damage to cultural sites?	“It commonly forms dense mono-specific stands several metres tall” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Not known to cause structural damage; likely have a moderate negative visual effect.	ML	MH
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001).	L	MH
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001).	L	MH
7. Increase soil erosion?	“Much-branched thicket forming shrubs to 3 m high. [The root system comprises a] robust, brown woody rootstock with numerous shallow laterals” (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001). Unlikely to contribute to soil erosion.	L	MH
8. Reduce biomass?	“Lantana is mainly an invader of open (in Australia especially eucalypt) woodland. It commonly forms dense mono-specific stand several metres tall” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Biomass may increase.	L	MH
9. Change fire regime?	In woodland communities it commonly forms dense mono-specific stands that, “greatly increase the fire hazard under dry conditions. Dry lantana burns readily even when green” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Moderate change to both frequency and intensity of fire.	MH	MH
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Coastal Headland Scrub (V); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Wilsons Promontory. Climate=VH. “It commonly forms dense mono-specific stands several metres tall which exclude native herbs, shrubs and tree and climber seedlings, greatly reducing the area’s conservation value” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Monoculture within a layer.	H	MH
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Coastal Alkaline Scrub (D); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain. Climate=VH. “It commonly forms dense mono-specific stands several metres tall which exclude native herbs, shrubs and tree and climber seedlings, greatly reducing the area’s conservation value” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Monoculture within a layer.	H	MH
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Heathy Woodland (LC); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Wilsons Promontory; Climate=VH. “It commonly forms dense mono-specific stands several metres tall which exclude native herbs, shrubs and tree and climber seedlings, greatly reducing the area’s conservation value” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Monoculture within a layer.	H	MH
11. Impact on structure?	“It commonly forms dense mono-specific stands several metres tall which exclude native herbs, shrubs and tree and climber seedlings, greatly reducing the area’s conservation value” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Potential to form monoculture.	H	MH

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12. Effect on threatened flora?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened flora.	MH	L
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened fauna.	MH	L
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	“It commonly forms dense mono-specific stands several metres tall which exclude native herbs, shrubs and tree and climber seedlings” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). But, “Lantana thickets create a substitute habitat, providing food and shelter for some animal species” (ARMCANZ 2001). Structure is altered with reduced diversity; more importantly natural habitat is affected potentially leading to reduction in faunal populations.	MH	MH
15. Benefits fauna?	Lantana provides some shelter and food for native fauna (ARMCANZ 2001).	MH	MH
16. Injurious to fauna?	Although toxic to sheep and cattle, there is no evidence the plant affects native fauna (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001).	L	MH
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	It is not documented as providing food to pest species. However, it is known to be an alternative food source for some native birds (ARMCANZ 2001). Potential food source to pest birds.	ML	MH
18. Provides harbor?	“The thickets provide shelter for animal pests” (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001). “It provides harbour to vermin, including rabbits, foxes and feral cats” (Anon. (n.d.)).	H	MH
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Direct impact on yield resulting from loss of pasture and animal deaths (ARMCANZ 2001). “Annual losses due to lantana in pastures are estimated to be \$A7.7m, comprising 1500 cattle deaths, 4.5% reduced performance, [and] 7.3% loss of pasture” (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). Major impact on yield.	MH	MH
20. Impact quality?	Not known to affect the quality of produce. Not a weed of cropping.	L	MH
21. Affect land value?	Although not documented, the invasiveness of lantana, its impact on agricultural yield, its toxic properties and the cost of control all suggest that land values would be affected (Panetta <i>et al.</i> 1998). “It forms dense impenetrable thickets which impede access, alter fire regimes and reduce amenity and property values” (Anon (n.d.)).	H	MH
22. Change land use?	“Uncultivated pastures or neglected properties are readily invaded. Decline of traditional dairying /beef industries on the NSW and Queensland hinterlands and the expansion of rural subdivisions have resulted in many marginal grazing lands being abandoned and invaded by lantana” (ARMCANZ 2001). Left untreated, lantana infestations may result in a significant change in land use (or abandonment).	H	MH
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not known to affect the cost of harvesting produce.	L	MH
24. Disease host/vector?	“The thickets...act as alternative hosts for plant pathogens and pests such as <i>Asechochyta phaseolorum</i> , <i>Physalospora fusca</i> , and thrips (<i>Holothrips flaviceps</i> and <i>Thrips tabaci</i>)” (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001). Serious pest of horticulture.	H	MH

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References cited:

Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand, Australian & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers, (2001) *Weeds of National Significance Lantana (Lantana camara) Strategic Plan*. National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee, Launceston.

¹ Anon. (n.d.) *Beating Lantana on the NSW South Coast*. South Coast Bitou Bush Task Force. Available: <http://www.tosustain.com/bitoubush/lantana.pdf> Accessed 15/07/03
Parsons, W.T. & Cuthbertson, E. G. 2001, *Noxious weeds of Australia*, 2nd edn, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.

Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision
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