

## 5.6. PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR LANTANA



### Description of the Pest

Lantana (*Lantana camara* var. *aculeata*) is a perennial shrub. It has a prickly scrambling appearance and grows 2-3 metres high. The plant has small dull green leaves with serrated edges. Its flowers are generally yellow and pink in clusters, sometimes red or orange.

### Distribution of the Pest

Lantana is found in the northern and coastal parts of the Region. Major infestations exist in the Whangaroa, and Hokianga areas. Approximately 100 smaller non-urban infestation sites exist outside these core areas. Scattered ornamental plantings can be found in most urban areas.

### Problems Caused

The plant forms dense impenetrable thickets. It invades bush edges, pasture, roadsides, and wasteland where it replaces all other vegetation. The plant is poisonous to stock and humans.

### Parties Affected

The main parties affected are landowners, particularly farmers, foresters and bodies responsible for managing the conservation estate and roadsides.

### Impact Evaluation

<u>Impact</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Potential</u>
Cultural	Low	High
Ecological	Low	High
Human Health	-	Low
Soil & Water	-	-
Production	Low	High
Public Infrastructure	-	Low
Public Safety	-	-
Recreation	Low	Medium
Trade (International)	-	-
Overall Regional	Low	High

### Regional Effects

Lantana is potentially a major pest plant in Northland. Although large infestations are confined to a few areas, the seed is dispersed large distances by birds. Once established, lantana replaces native and other scrub vegetation, particularly if aided by fire, and where grazing pressure is low it invades pasture.

### Need to Intervene

The ability of lantana to become much more widespread throughout Northland means a Regional management Strategy is required. The public perception of it as a pest is not high. Evidence from other countries shows that lantana can become a significant pest plant imposing high economic and environmental costs on communities. Control of small outlying infestations will greatly reduce the area of Northland under immediate threat from this plant, as will its eventual eradication from home gardens. Introduction of biological control agents is generally beyond the

resources of individual landholders so such initiatives generally require Regional intervention and support to proceed.

### **Goal (Long Term)**

- To ensure lantana does not become a significant economic or environmental pest in Northland.

### **Objectives (Five Year)**

- To increase public awareness of the threat which lantana poses to the Region and encourage community control programs.
- To eradicate lantana from 50% of all home gardens in Northland.
- To contain the lantana infestations to the core infestation areas as shown on Map F and to progressively control rural infestations outside these areas by Council service delivery.
- To assess options for biological control and support the introduction of promising control agents.

### **Tactics and Technical Methods to be Used**

Service	Provide an alternative shrub seedling to home gardeners to encourage replacement of lantana.
Research	Determine species or varieties present and biological control options. Initiate or support programmes to introduce promising biological control agents.
Education	Advice to occupiers and other interested parties. Conduct a "Lantana Out" campaign to encourage home gardeners to eradicate plants in their gardens. Community meetings and field days. Media releases and publicity brochures.
Regulation	Rule 6.4.2.9 Prohibition on Distribution and Sale of Pest Plants Rule 6.4.2.12 Maintenance of Lantana Infestation Sites  Failure to comply with these rules creates an offence under section 154 (r) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

### **Tactics and Technical Methods Rejected**

Economic	Subsidies on herbicides (not effective).
Regulation	Rules on occupier total control (core infestations too large).

### **Effects of the Strategy**

Beneficial	Enhanced primary production. Protection of indigenous ecosystems and enhanced recreational values.
Detrimental	Minor loss in sales from garden centres.

### **Cost of Strategy**

The Strategy is estimated to cost the Regional Council approximately \$9,000 each year.

## **Funding**

The Strategy is funded from a Land Management Rate. The costs of control work on individual properties will be borne by landowners and occupiers or by the Northland Regional Council at its discretion.

## **Management Agency**

The Northland Regional Council is responsible for managing the Strategy.

## **Relationship of Strategy to Other Pest Management Strategies'**

The Auckland Regional Council has prepared a similar Strategy for the Auckland Region.

## **Monitoring and Reporting**

A database of infestations and site status is to be maintained. Progress towards objectives in the Strategy will be recorded in the Regional Council's Annual Plan or LTCCP as appropriate.

**Term of Strategy**                      **5 years**

## **Rules**

### 6.4.2.9                      Prohibition on Distribution and Sale of Pest Plants

- (i) No person shall distribute to other persons or offer for sale, or hold in a premises where plants are offered for sale, any pest plant which is subject to a Northland Regional Council Pest Management Strategy or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.
- (ii) No person shall distribute or offer for sale to other persons any agricultural lime, roading aggregate, sand or fill material which contains the seeds or any other vegetative material capable of propagation from a pest plant subject of a Northland Regional Council Pest Management Strategy or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.
- (iii) No person shall transport or use any equipment, machinery or product which contains the seeds or any other vegetative material capable of propagation from a pest plant subject of a Pest Management Strategy or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.
- (iv) No person shall plant, transplant or re-distribute any pest plant subject of a Pest Management Strategy or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.

### 6.4.2.12                      Maintenance of Lantana Infestation Sites

The occupier of a property on which lantana has been controlled by Council service delivery shall maintain the property clear of lantana.