

# WEED OF THE WEEK

BROUGHT TO YOU BY KAUA'I COMMUNITY RADIO & KAUA'I INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

WEEK TEN, AUGUST 27, 2008

## LANTANA

*Lantana camara*



Forest & Kim Starr

**Description:** Rugged shrub that can grow 6ft tall & spread 8ft. in width. leaves have tooth edges & textured surface. Stems & leaves have rough hairs & emit unpleasant aroma. Flowers are in clusters & range in color (white, yellow, pink, & orange)

**Native Range:** West Indies

**Distribution:** Widespread, incipient in some natural areas

**Weed Risk Assessment Score:** 21-VERY HIGH RISK

## INVASIVE INFO

- Lantana can **make pets & livestock very sick**, its foliage & unripe berries are extremely toxic
- On DOFAW's list of Hawai'i's **Most Invasive Horticultural Plants** to avoid planting
- Has been **fatal to children** who ate unripe berries
- Is **ALLELOPATHIC**, making it difficult for other plants to grow
- **Fire tolerant & flowers year-round**
- **Dominates the understory**, crowding out natives
- **Impacts the environment & agriculture**
- **Grows in dense, woody thickets**
- **Seeds spread far from mother plant** by birds
- Designated as one of the **"World's 100 Worst Invasive Species"**
- **Infests 400,000 acres** in the Hawaiian Islands
- **One of Australia's "Top 20 Invasive Species"**

**PROTECT OUR FARMS & OUR FOREST:  
REMOVE LANTANA!**

**Even with beautiful flowers,  
this plant can be a beast in natural areas.**