

Helidon White lantana

Lantana camara L. *sensu lato* var. "Helidon White" Smith & Smith



Description: shrubs with prickly stems, usually extensively so; leaves generally ovate to elliptic, sometimes lanceolate, usually with apex acuminate, often twisted towards the apex, size highly variable; leaf adaxial surfaces rugose, scabrous, more or less shiny (particularly in shaded habitats); leaf margins serrate; corollas changing colour as they age with young (central) flowers cream to white, and mature (marginal) flowers white or pale pink, often fading to pink; corolla limb typically slightly larger than the more widespread varieties of lantana (up to 10-11 mm in length).

Distribution: South East QLD and Northern NSW, with NSW populations representing a southward range expansion since 1982. Often found further inland relative to other varieties of lantana.

Notes: one of the most widely distributed regional varieties, and often locally highly abundant. May interbreed with closely related varieties, particularly near the northern limit of its range.

Further reading

Lu-Irving P, Encinas-Viso F, Callander J, Day MD, Le Roux JJ (2022). New insights from population genomics into the invasive *Lantana camara* L species complex. In: Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference. Council of Australasian Weed Societies pp. 45–47.

Smith LS, Smith DA (1982). The naturalised *Lantana camara* complex in Eastern Australia. Queensland Botany Bulletin 1: 1–26.