

Common Pink-Edged Red lantana

Lantana camara L. *sensu lato* var. "Common Pink-Edged Red" Smith & Smith



Description: shrubs with prickly stems (may sometimes lack prickles on new growth); foliage usually dark green; leaves generally ovate to elliptic to lanceolate, typically with apex acuminate, size highly variable; leaf adaxial surfaces rugose, scabrous, and usually shiny; leaf margins serrate, often coarsely so; corollas changing colour as they age with young (central) flowers usually bright yellow, becoming orange, and mature (marginal) flowers usually red to coral or magenta, sometimes fading to pink.

Distribution: chiefly within 150 km of the coast from St Lawrence in QLD south to Sydney in NSW, but also with a disjunct presence in northern QLD from the Daintree to the Atherton tablelands.

Notes: after Common Pink, the most common and widespread variety of lantana in Australia. May be difficult to distinguish from localised varieties of similar appearance, and may interbreed with closely-related varieties (but hybrids with Common Pink are rare).

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.