

Purple Trailing Lantana: A Newly Categorized Invasive Plant in Florida

Plant Description:

Common lantana is a highly invasive species in Florida. While the Purple Trailing Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*) was once considered a mild mannered species, it has since been categorized as an invasive plant and therefore is no longer recommended for Florida-Friendly gardens. While the purple flower clusters are attractive, the spreading nature of this plant is causing problems in natural areas. If you already own this plant, consider removing it from the landscape or at least managing it to prevent its escape from your yard.

In addition to being invasive, all varieties of lantana are poisonous. The berries are poisonous to humans and the leaves are highly toxic to animals. In addition, handling plants may cause skin irritation or allergic reactions in some people.

If you can't live without Lantana in your landscape, there are non-invasive, sterile selections available such as 'New Gold' Lantana (*Lantana* x 'New Gold'). Planting these will ensure that birds can't disperse the seeds to natural areas and plants won't spread to areas where they aren't welcome.



Photo Credit: Alicia Lamborn