

# LANTANA

*Lantana camara*

Verbenaceae



Two rust fungi will be released to attack lantana soon. The lantana leaf rust (*Prospodium tuberculatum*) attacks the leaves causing defoliation, and is already being used with some success in Australia. The lantana blister rust (*Puccinia lantanae*) will be used for the first time ever as a biocontrol agent in New Zealand. The blister rust attacks the leaves, petioles and stems causing branch die-back. Sometimes it also forms systemic infections leading to severe die-back or plant death. None of the numerous insect agents used against lantana overseas are unlikely to be released in New Zealand as conditions here are expected to be unsuitable for them.

