



# ALMANAC

Thursday, May 1, 2025



**ORDER YOUR ALMANAC TODAY!**

[HOME](#) > [GARDENING](#) > [GROWING GUIDES](#)

# How to Grow Lantanas: The Complete Lantana Flower Guide



Bo *Lantana*  
tan *spp.*  
ica  
I  
Na  
me  
:

Pla Flower  
nt  
Ty  
pe:

FREE GUIDE!

Ex

po-

sur

e:

Soi Neutral,

I Neutral

pH to

: Slightly  
Alkaline

,  
Slightly  
Acidic  
to  
Neutral

Flo Multicol

we or

r

Col

or:

Ha 9, 10,

rdi- 11

ne

ss

Zo

ne:

Sp Attracts

eci Butterfli

al es

Fe

atu

res

# Planting, Growing, and Caring for Lantanas

By [Andy Wilcox](#)

Last Updated: July 18, 2024



Sign up for daily gardening advice and tips

SIGN UP

ADVERTISEMENT

## The Almanac Garden Planner - Use It Free for 7 Days!



Plan your 2025 garden with our award-winning Garden Planner.

TRY NOW

With multi-colored blossoms against dark green foliage, lantanas not only catch our eye but are beloved by pollinators. Heat- and deer-resistant, these flowering shrubs grow vigorously in both garden beds and containers! Learn how to plant, grow, and care for lovely lantana flowers.

ADVERTISEMENT

## About Lantanas

Lantana is a genus of flowering, evergreen, vine-like shrubs with about 150 species recognized. They are in the Verbena family, Verbenaceae. Native to the tropical regions of the Americas and Africa, they have become naturalized in parts of the American Southeast.

Treated as annuals in cooler regions, lantanas are perennial in USDA zones 9 to 11, with a few varieties hardy to zone 8.

Lantanas thrive on neglect and like dry heat, making them ideal selections for pots, planters, and hanging baskets.

These shrubs have a colossal impact on color, with dark green, rough foliage, and bright flowers. The lightly fragrant flowers are in clusters called umbels at the edges of the plant. Blooms are commonly found in combinations of red, orange, yellow, pink, salmon, white, and even blues and purples. Many florets change color as they age, giving rise to multi-colored inflorescences.

## ADVERTISEMENT



The flowers have a mild scent, variously described as resembling citrus- sage or passion fruit. The scent of its leaves, especially when bruised, is not as pleasant and has been likened to that of gasoline. Beware, too, as the plant's foliage may cause mild skin irritation when touched.

Note: Lantanas have been designated in-

herbivores, and rapid growth allow them to quickly spread out of control. They are toxic to pets and people, so plant them where small children and curious dogs won't be tempted to bother them.

Lantanas are attractive to pollinators and bring butterflies, including Swallowtails, as well as hummingbirds to the yard. Their florets are the ideal shape for nectar-gathering insects.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

#### Read Next

- [How to Grow Heliotropes: The Complete Guide](#)
- [How to Grow Russian Sage: The](#)

- [How to Grow Weigela Shrubs \(The Complete Guide\)](#)

## PLANTING

Lantanas thrive in warm temperatures and bright sunlight. Pick a location where they can enjoy at least 6 hours per day of sunshine. They are not picky about soil as long as it has good drainage and is neutral in pH, in the 6.0-8.0 range.

Lantana will bloom year-round in frost-free areas and can get as large as 6 feet high and several feet wide in tropical climates. Don't worry too much about them outgrowing their home. Lantanas respond well to pruning and, in fact, should be pruned or sheared often.

They will tolerate salt spray well, making them a good choice for those looking for colorful plants whose homes are near the ocean.



## When to Plant Lantanas

Lantanas grown as annuals, whether in containers or in the ground, can be planted out anytime after the last frosts. Although they like temperatures to stay warmer than about 55 degrees, a light frost likely won't kill them and they can survive down to about 28 degrees.

Wait until the soil warms to about 60 degrees before planting in ground. If you don't have a soil thermometer, plant them at the same time as you plant your tomatoes.

## How to Plant Lantanas

Lantanas purchased at the garden center vary in size from 4 packs to 3-gallon pots.

Plant them in the ground as you would other bedding plants, and water them well afterward.

- Well-draining soil is important whether planting in a container or in the ground. Lantanas are adapted to drier conditions. Consistently wet soil may lead to root rot. Amend heavy soil with compost.
- If you live in USDA zone 8 or cooler, your lantana will be an annual unless brought inside, so placement in your landscape is a short-term decision. Mix it up, plant a patch, or sprinkle them around the garden bed for pops

Although drought tolerant once established, they need extra support while their roots are recovering from transplant shock and putting on growth.

- Purchasing plants is easy to do, but propagation can also be simply accomplished with hybrid cuttings. (Cultivars often do not come true from seed.) In early spring, snip a sprig and remove most of the lower leaves. If desired, dust the cutting's bottom 2 inches with rooting powder, then set it in a small container of moistened seed-starting mix. Maintain the moisture by misting it every day. When roots develop—in a few weeks or so—transplant it to where you want it. Alternatively, take root cuttings in summer to overwinter indoors for spring planting.

## GROWING

Lantanas aren't fussy. Give them a warm, sunny spot and watch them grow. These easy-care plants don't want much other

- Lantanas prefer hot and dry conditions. Consistently wet soil can lead to root rot and inhibit blooming. Once established, water only when the top several inches of soil is dry to the touch, then water deeply. They would rather get a few long drinks than many short ones.
- Fertilizer is not needed for ground-planted lantanas. Lantanas in containers can be fertilized once per month with a general-purpose balanced fertilizer when watering. Too much fertilizer will inhibit lantanas blooming, so don't overdo it.
- Although established lantanas are drought tolerant, if your lantana isn't blooming, it is often a lack of water. Check the soil with your finger at a depth of about two inches. If the soil is dry, give your lantana a drink.
- Give it frequent snipping to encourage bushy growth and flowering. Lantana is a rapid grower, so grab your scissors and trim off the meristem—the growing tip-on branches every few weeks once

## Overwintering

Lantanas don't do well as houseplants, but can be tricked into going dormant and brought inside to overwinter. Follow these steps to overwinter your potted lantana.

- Find a location with minimal light (not total darkness).
- A cool location, ideally about 55 degrees. An unheated basement or garage might be just the spot.
- Do water it periodically. The death of many overwintering attempts is dehydration. While a plant may be dormant, a complete lack of water for several months is a death sentence. Keep the potting mix slightly dry but not desert dusty. There should still be a little moisture.
- Be on the lookout for spider mites and white flies.



- 

## Types

Wild lantanas can become invasive where winters are mild; hybrids are least likely to be invasive because they both produce few seeds and are sterile. Choose sterile varieties for maximum flower production and ecological protection.

Hybrid cultivars—which are usually variations of the common/dwarf (*Lantana camara*) or trailing/weeping (*L. montevideoensis*) types—are bred for their blooms; the list below presents only a small fraction of those available.

- *Lantana camara* ‘Confetti’: 2 to 3 feet tall; 6 to 8 feet wide, spreading form; multicolor magenta, pink, and yellow flowers.
- *L. camara* ‘Dallas Red’: 3 to 4 feet tall and wide; dark orange to bright red flowers.
- *L. camara* ‘Irene’: up to 2 feet tall; 2 to

- L. camara ‘Patriot Cowboy’: 12 inches tall and wide; orange buds to bright yellow to orange flowers.
- L. camara ‘Patriot Rainbow’: 12 inches tall; 15 inches wide; bright yellow to orange to pink/magenta flowers.
- L. camara ‘Patriot Weeper Dove Wings’: 12 to 18 inches tall; 18 to 24 inches wide; white flowers with yellow centers.
- L. camara ‘Silver Mound’: up to 18 inches tall; yellow to white flowers.
- L. montevidensis ‘New Gold’: 12 to 15 inches tall, 18 to 24 inches wide; yellow flowers.
- ‘Bandito’ develops a full, mounding shape with bright orange, red, and pink blooms.
- Popcorn lantana (*Lantana trifolia*) is hardy in USDA zones 10-11. Lavender flowers develop into pretty purple berries (but don’t eat them!).

## GARDENING PRODUCTS



## PESTS/DISEASES

- Aphids
- Spider mites
- Lacebugs
- Mealybugs

## WIT AND WISDOM

- Some Lantana species are invasive and can escape, causing problems in the wild. That is not an issue if you are a northern gardener, as they will not survive the winter. For warmer, frost-

turing will go a long way toward preventing unwanted jailbreaks.

- All parts of the lantana are toxic if ingested by humans or pets, which is one of the reasons deer leave them alone. If you have trouble with hoofed herbivores in your yard, lantana might be just the solution to provide some deer-resistant annual color. [See more deer-resistant plants.](#)
- Although Lantana species have been cultivated for nearly 300 years, their use in folk medicine as poultices for snakebites and sprains and as elixirs to treat ailments dates back even longer.
- Lore suggests that dried lantana leaves burned in a glass jar can serve as a natural mosquito repellent.
- The name “lantana” comes from its clusters of dark berries that resemble those of Viburnum lantana, which in 1597 was referred to as “the wayfaring tree” by English herbalist John Gerard because he continually noticed it along his routes between Wiltshire and London. It is said that if you see this

**FLOWERS**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Andy Wilcox



Andy Wilcox is a flower farmer and master gardener with a passion for soil health, small producers, forestry, and horticulture.

[Read More from Andy Wilcox](#)

## MORE LIKE THIS



[How to Grow  
Heliotropes:  
The Complete  
Guide](#)



[How to Grow  
Russian Sage:  
The Complete  
Russian Sage  
Flower Guide](#)



[How to Grow  
Weigela  
Shrubs \(The  
Complete  
Guide\)](#)



[How to Grow  
Lantana](#)



[How to Grow  
Plumbago](#)



[Coral Bell](#)

[Verbena](#)[Flower Guide](#)[Plumbago](#)[Plants](#)[Guide to](#)[Growing](#)**GROW YOUR BEST GARDEN YET**Join The Old Farmer's Almanac  
Gardening Club Today![LEARN MORE](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

## COMMENTS

[ADD A COMMENT](#)

nator on it. The asters, zinnias, cosmos and some other flowers have been full of insects this year but not one has been seen on the lantana. I'm in Illinois in corn and bean country, so butterflies are almost a thing of the past. I have actually seen 3 this summer.

## ADVERTISEMENT

[REPLY](#)

---

**Debra Jackson (not verified)** 1 year ago

I live in Texas , around Austin & I am wondering when my Lantana planted last year will come back. I did the winter pruning, I don't want to jerk the plants out if they are coming back. Thanks.

[REPLY](#)

**The Editors** 1 year ago

Hi Debra,

In your area, lantana should be making an appearance soon (since it has not already) to provide its wonderful

you planted, the time in which it emerges from the ground can vary. Since lantana is a tropical plant and even though it is considered a perennial in your growing zone, a colder than normal winter could cause it to not return. It would be best to give it more time to see if it will come back and save any decisions about pulling it from the ground until later in the spring when it will be clear if it will not come back.

**REPLY**

---

**Peggy Harrison (not verified)** 1 year 10

months ago

Here in the Lower Piedmont of SC (zone 8b), my lantana die when it frosts, but so far they have come back from the roots each spring. The branches do not survive and I cut them off.

**REPLY**

I got a lantana bush with pink, rose and yellow flower. After the first year the flowers are a single color of rose. Why?

**REPLY**

**The Editors** 1 year 11 months ago

Hi Diane,

As the flowers of a lantana age they change color. Since the flowers do not bloom all at the same time, it is common for plants to have multiple flower colors during the later stages of the growing season. Since it is early in the season, the flowers on your plant should begin to change color.

**REPLY**

---

**Joan (not verified)** 1 year 11 months ago

The Lantana is one of my most favourite flowers. Here in Ontario they are annuals and die

[REPLY](#)

**Mary C Colwell (not verified)** 1 year 11 months

ago

Thanks for your information that this plant  
NEEDS to be cut back before berries form. We  
still run the risk of it becoming invasive in  
other states - like all the others that now wreak  
havoc across the country!

[REPLY](#)

## THE OLD FARMER'S STORE



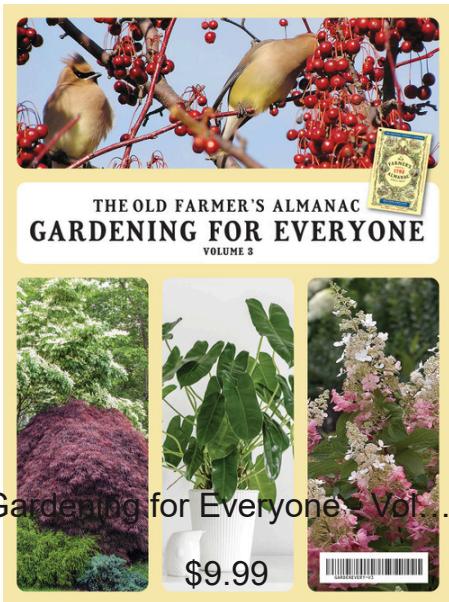
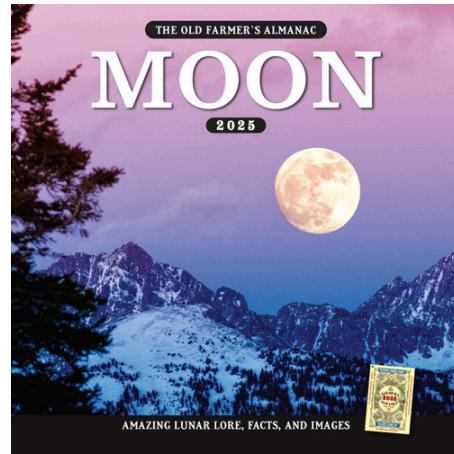
Rain Gauge Stake - Heron

\$15.00



Bee Silk - Moisturizing Cream...

\$36.05


[BUY NOW](#)


2025 Moon Calendar

\$11.99

[BUY NOW](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

## Our Brands

- [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)
- [Almanac for Kids](#)
- [Yankee Magazine](#)
- [Family Tree Magazine](#)
- [NH Business Review](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)

## Resources

- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Free Daily Newsletter](#)
- [Webcam](#)
- [Advertise with Us](#)

## Connect with Us



[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie List](#)

[Do Not Sell or Share](#)

[My Personal](#)

[Information](#)

©2025 [Yankee Publishing Inc.](#), An Employee-Owned Company

1121 Main Street | P.O. Box 520 | Dublin, NH 03444