

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

PLANT OF THE MONTH JULY, 2023

TEXAS LANTANA, *LANTANA URTICOIDES*



Texas Lantana also known as Calico Bush makes a tough bullet-proof addition to any garden. Its red, orange and yellow flowers bloom from April to October that attract butterflies and birds. It forms a low, wide deciduous shrub 2 – 6' tall. It flowers best in the hottest weather. A native of the Edwards Plateau, it is also found in in the Rio Grande Plains west to California and south to Mexico. It grows naturally in dry soils and requires low water, full sun (best) to part shade. This is the only native variety and is a member of the verbena family.. Several varieties of Lantana with different colored flowers have been imported from Central and South America and are sold in local nurseries.

Lantana provides summer color. In winter, some gardeners prune back lantana to keep the plants from getting too large. The stems become thorny especially with age, so caution is necessary when cutting them back. Mature plants tend to form large mounds that may be separated into smaller plants in the winter. Used as a low to medium, flowering ground cover for dry, exposed, poor sites. Crinkly leaves give off a sharp aroma when touched and they can cause a skin rash. The pungent aroma and taste of the leaves protect it from browsing deer. The blue-black fruit clusters are poisonous.

Texas Lantana is a NPSOT Lindheimer Chapter NICE! 2023 Summer Native Plant selection