

## PINELAND LANTANA

*Lantana depressa* Small var. *depressa*

**Synonyms:** *Lantana ovatifolia* Britton  
*forma parvifolia* Moldenke

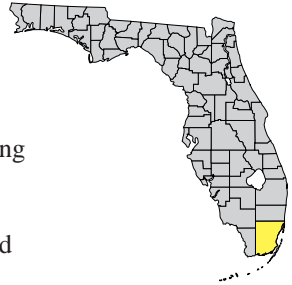
*Lantana ovatifolia* Britton var. *reclinata* R.W. Long

**Family:** Verbenaceae (verbena)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2T1/S1

**Legal Status:** US—Mgmt Concern FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—none FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Low, mat-forming **shrub**. **Leaves** 2 inches long, 1 inch wide, opposite, oval to lance-shaped, toothed, with wedge-shaped bases, blades folded up along the midvein. **Flowers** bright yellow-gold but fade to orange with age (photo, lower right), 15 - 20 flowers in dense, flat-topped clusters. **Fruit** fleshy, shiny black.

**Similar Species:** The common, exotic landscape lantana (*Lantana camara*) has squared-off leaf bases, orange or multi-colored flower heads, and thorny, erect branches. Landscape cultivars such as “Lantana Gold” and “Gold Rush” resemble the native varieties but are of uncertain parentage and should not be considered native. Button sage (*Lantana involucrata*) has white, yellow-centered flowers and yellowish stems.

**Related Rare Species:** Two yellow-flowered varieties of pineland lantana are similar except for growth form: Sanibel lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *sanibelensis*) has erect branches to 3 - 9 feet tall. Florida lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *floridana*) has lax or arching stems to 6 feet tall.

## Pineland lantana

## *Lantana depressa* var. *depressa*

**Habitat:** Pineland lantana: pine rocklands of southern Dade County, especially Everglades keys. Sanibel lantana: dunes, coastal grasslands, and sandy inland ridges. Florida lantana: dunes and sandy inland ridges.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Pineland lantana: endemic to Dade County, FL. Sanibel lantana: endemic to SW coast of FL. Florida lantana: endemic to SE coast of FL.

**Conservation Status:** Although found on many conservation areas, all 3 varieties are threatened by exotic species invasion and by “genetic swamping” through hybridization with *Lantana camara*.

**Protection & Management:** Where native varieties occur with *Lantana camara*, removal of this exotic species is urgent. Burn pine rocklands every 2 - 3 years. Protect coastal habitats from development.

**References:** Coile 2000, Hammer 1997, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Sanders 1987, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

