PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Lantana ukambensis* (Vatke) Verdc.

**GENUS** *Lantana* **FAMILY** Verbenaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Rhodesian lantana

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Leaves - flavouring, Seeds

The ripe fruit are used as a dessert fruit.
The leaves are used for flavouring and sauces.

## DESCRIPTION

A woody herb or small shrub. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows about 1-2 m high. It often has several stems. The leaves are oval and in pairs of rings of three. They are 1-8 cm long. The tip is pointed and the base is narrowed. There are round teeth along the edge. The leaves are like sandpaper above and are hairy underneath. The flowers are purple but often with a yellow centre. The fruit are red or purple. They are 2-4 mm across. They have one seed.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in open grassland in West Africa. It grows between 760-1,670 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seed or cuttings. They can be grown as a hedge.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

The fruit are collected during the rainy season.

## NOTES

There are about 150 Lantana species. They come from tropical and subtropical America.

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