

Growing our Future – Adopt a plant for Arbor Day 2020

Planting information



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General tips for planting New Zealand natives

While each species is unique, there are still some tips that are relevant for all native trees:

- Planting is best timed so that plants can establish roots into the soil before their first summer.
- Remove weeds and grasses from your proposed planting site at least a week before planting.
- Before removing the plastic bag in which we have provided your tree, water the plant well.
- Ensure that the holes you dig are of the correct size. Do not bury the stems or trunks of plants any higher or lower than to the level of the potting mix used by our nursery.
- If planting into hard soil, add some compost to the base of the holes you have dug
- Ensure roots are balanced and pointing in the right direction!
- Pack soil firmly in around the root base.
- Water thoroughly - trees will not survive being planted in dry soil.
- Make sure weeds do not regrow over the plant when it's getting established.

Group 1 – Indoor plants

These are native plants that can survive inside – but they are naturally outdoor plants. This means they prefer cooler conditions so if they are indoors make sure they are not in all day sun or in a spot that's too warm.

Kowhai | *Sophora Microphylla*

Tree (under 10m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: coastal forest garden

A fantastic garden tree as it has iconic bright yellow flowers in spring and as it is semi-deciduous it lets in light in the winter and provides shade in the summer. Can grow to over 10m in the right conditions. Can handle most conditions but prefers sheltered spots to get started.

Water regularly while young. Note however that Kōwhai can sulk and drop leaves if too wet or too dry. So keep the soil moist but not too wet.

More information available online:

<https://www.nztreesplease.co.nz/top-tips-kowhai-trees/>
<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/grow-kowhai-21708.html>

Nikau | *Rhopalostylis sapida*

Tree (under 10m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, shade, partial shade, sunny, shelter, coastal forest garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

Avoid disturbing the roots as much as possible when planting. An excellent pot plant, and provided the tap root is left intact it can be easily transplanted. Quite hardy. Prefers fertile, well-drained soil but quite tolerant when established. Easy to look after but young plants need shade and moist soil. Tolerates wind and is frost hardy.

New Zealand's only native palm and one of our best known iconic species. It's easily recognised by its erect circular trunk which is ringed with evenly spaced scars from previous leaves. The often upright standing fronds can grow up to 3 metre with a dark green coloration in older leaves. Plants are slow growing and produces after 15 years or so in age beautiful pink or lilac flowers sticky and sweet off nectar attracting geckos and insects, especially native bees, but it does attract some birds like tui and silvereyes too. The flowers is attached in multiple spikes at the top of trunk before the leaves. Flowering can occur throughout the entire year in some places.

The flower is followed by a bright red fruits taking a year to ripe and are an important source of food for the wood pigeon, kereru and kaka who will also disperse the seed.

More information available online:

<https://www.palmers.co.nz/portfolio-posts/how-to-grow-palms/>
<http://nzpalms.co.nz/how-to-plant-palms/4593102628>

Mikoikoi | NZ Iris | *Libertia peregrinans*

Grass or similar - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, wetlands and water features

A striking green/yellow/copper-stripped fan of stiff blades. Can spread out on horizontal stolons into a neat fringe of tussocks. Attractive yellow/white flower clusters from spring, becoming clusters of orange berries in late summer.

More information available online:

<https://www.gardenershq.com/Libertia.php>

Pinatoro | NZ Daphne | *Pimelea prostrata*

Shrub - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, exposure, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

True coastal low growing plant that can grow in most situations, but prefers a well-drained soil. With small star like and fragrant flowers over a long period from spring through to the beginning of autumn, this low shrub is easily identified by its blue-green narrow leaves that which join the stem at a small ridge. Can be found in various habitat like coastal gravel, sand dunes, sand, stone, gravel in open scrub, low grassland. This makes this an ideal species for exposed coastal gardens, rockeries and as a good border for smaller cottage gardens.

Normally grows to dimensions of around 5-20cm high and up to 1m wide.

More information available online:

<http://www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/plants-for-auckland/plants/pimelea-prostrata/>

Rengarenga | *Arthropodium cirratum*

Other plant - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony

Rengarenga is a hardy plant with white flowers that will grow in either full sun or dense shade, though best in filtered light. It tolerates both dry and salty situations, so is a good plant for coastal areas.

More information available online:

<http://www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/plants-for-auckland/plants/arthropodium-cirratum/>

Wharariki | Coastal/mountain flax | *Phormium cookianum*

Other plant - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony

One of our two iconic flax species. The mountain or coastal flax is often found on coastal cliff faces and open rocky or hard ground. The mountain flax is smaller than the otherwise well-known swamp flax. It is also distinguished by its yellow flowers and twisted seed heads. The seed heads become thin, papery and oily with age. The leaves are arching up to a metre long and with a green, lime, olive or often light yellow-green coloration. The flowers stalk can grow up to 2 metre with flowers at the top in coloration of greenish, with tones of orange or yellow and very appreciated by native nectar eating birds such as tui, bellbird and silver-eye but also by geckos.

Flax tolerates both dry and moist soil and will almost always look great. This species is drought tolerant and grows well in pots and containers with full sun.

More information available online:

<http://www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/plants-for-auckland/plants/phormium-cookianum/>

Group 2 – Sheltered and Shady

Katote | Soft tree fern | *Cyathea smithii*

Fern - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, partial shade, sunny, shelter, coastal forest garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

The masses of very soft and delicate looking fronds which spread horizontally from the crown and reach 2 – 2.5m in length gives this tree ferns its name- soft tree fern. With a chestnut coloured trunk, up to 8 metre tall this tree fern grows slow and therefor works even in small gardens. Dead fronds often leave a skirt around the slender, fibrous trunk when they die. This is to keep moisture and humidity along the trunk, but also helps it protect themselves against vines and epiphytes establishing along the trunk, potentially breaking it down. It still allows however plants to grow on the lower parts of the trunk. This skirt is very characteristic of this species and makes it easy to identify among other New Zealand species of tree fern.

Easily grown but needs shelter from strong winds and must never be allowed to dry out.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cyathea-smithii/>

Makomako | Wineberry | *Aristotelia serrata*

Tree (under 10m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

Makomako is a very common, fast growing semi-deciduous small tree, growing up to ten metres tall. It is found throughout New Zealand, in forests and scrubland, along forest margins and on roadsides. Makomako likes open sunlight and is frost hardy, although it can be vulnerable to drought. Flowers and berries provide food for bellbird, tūī, kererū and silvereyes from spring through to early summer.

Much-branched small tree with thin heart-shaped sharply toothed leaves flushed with pink on the underside. Can grow to 10m when planted in a sheltered gully.

Often used as a colonising plant in eco restoration as it is easy to establish and fast growing. Full sun to moderate shade, wet tolerant, prefers damp soils. Tolerates light frost and wind.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aristotelia-serrata/>

Ponga | Silver fern | *Cyathea dealbata*

The silver fern is a remarkable species of tree fern that displays a narrow brown trunk and elegant green leaves with shimmering silver undersides. The silver fern is endemic to New Zealand, occurring naturally nowhere else in the world. The plant has earned a place of honor as the country's national emblem and is enjoyed where hardy as a striking garden ornamental.

Like other ferns, silver fern loves moist, organic conditions. A loose, humus-rich soil generously enhanced with organic matter is ideal. Canterbury Nature recommends fertilizing the soil with materials such as well-rotted manure, fishmeal, seaweed or bonemeal. Using fertilizers rich in nitrogen will promote healthy frond growth, while high phosphate fertilizers will help the fern produce more spores for propagation. Soil should be kept moist, even wet, at all times during the growing season.

More information available online:

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/information-silver-fern-plant-68232.html>

Titoki | New Zealand Ash | *Alectryon excelcus*

Tree (10m - 15m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden

An attractive tree with a smooth grey to almost sometimes black slender trunk and a broad crown. Most attractive however are its distinctive fruit. Taking a year to ripe and expanding from a furry brown capsule, splitting in the middle is a black shiny seed. This seed is partly enclosed by a bright red fleshy fruit looking like a raspberry or a brain. A tree in full fruiting is a striking sight and fruit is eaten by native birds.

Needs shelter to get established and prefers fertile soils. Grows quickly in suitable conditions, preferring well drained, fertile soils in full sun or partial shade.

More information available online:

<https://www.zones.co.nz/landscaping-ideas/titoki-tree-planting-and-care-instructions>

Whekī | Rough tree fern | *Dicksonia squarrosa*

It has a slender black trunk that is usually surrounded by many dead brown fronds.

This species has a fast growth rate of up to 10–80 cm (4–31 in) a year, growing to about 6 m tall. It produces few fronds, all of which sprout in almost horizontal fashion. The fronds reach 1.5–3 m (4 ft 11 in–9 ft 10 in) in length, much smaller than *Cyathea* varieties, and are quite crisp to touch. They form a small "umbrella" on top of the trunk. They are sometimes found sprouting from apparently dead pieces of trunk. The trunks are often used for fencing or edging and fronds will sometimes sprout from the side if the top is dead. A feature of the whekī is the spreading underground rhizomes which can create dense groves, making it one of the most common tree ferns in New Zealand forests.

The whekī is quite hardy and tolerant to sun and some wind, but is best suited to a site with partial shade and minimal wind. It will tolerate some exposure to the elements – but can look quite scruffy in such a situation. Some protection should be considered over the winter months in climates with temperatures below 4–5 °C, e.g. shadecloth cover or straw packed in the crown. The fronds are small and compact, making this fern an ideal container or garden plant where space is limited.

More information available online:

<https://www.tawapou.co.nz/catalogue/dicksonia-squarrosa>

Group 3 Very tall trees

Tarata | Lemonwood | *Pittosporum eugenioides*

Tree (10m - 15m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, wetlands and water features

Popular evergreen tree which is very hardy and can tolerate Wellingtons clay soils which can be wet all winter and dry all summer. Tarata is a tree which grows up to 12 metres tall and has a strong lemony smell. It has attractive showy flowers in October, followed by distinctive black seed capsules. It is found throughout New Zealand along forest margins and on stream banks from sea level to 600 metres. Tarata is frost hardy once established and tolerates a wide range of conditions (although it can be vulnerable to drought) and is a useful quick growing restoration plant. Moist soils and water until established, dislikes dry conditions until well established.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pittosporum-eugenioides/>

Tōtara | *Podocarpus totara*

Tree (over 15m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden

A grand and attractive tree, totara used to be one of the dominant native pine species on Miramar in the old days. A medium sized tree, growing up to 20 to 25 metre tall with a beautiful reddish-grey or golden bark, being thick, corky, furrowed and stringy. Grows very slowly, but noted for its longevity, also making it a useful species for hedging. Small sharp, dull green needle-like leaves, that are stiff and leathery, up to 2 cm long. Like all podcarps, Totara trees have cones – male and female cones grow on separate trees. In autumn the female tree produces fleshy berry-like juicy scales or fruit, bright red when mature. Fruits take about a year to ripen, but may be found throughout the year, however most often between April and May. The fruit is readily eaten many native birds, including kereru, tui, and kakariki.

With its ability to withstand wind and tolerate trimming, Totara is very suitable for shelter belts and wind breaks.

More information available online:

<https://www.essentiallynz.com/our-products/totara-tree/>

Group 4 – Large plants and trees

Kapuka | Broadleaf | *Griselinia littoralis*

Tree, shrub (10m - 15m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, small garden or balcony

Probably one of our most planted natives. There are two species of the broadleaf griselinia in New Zealand. Easily recognised by its large, glossy evergreen leaves growing up to 18cm long and 12cm wide in *G. lucida* while smaller, 5-10cm long by 2-5cm in *G. littoralis*. Both often with an emerald green tone and slight pale green underside. The fruit is small and dark purple, sitting in small clusters. Bushy tree or small shrub in *G. littoralis* while *G. lucida* acts more of a vine. Both species having dark trunks. Both trees can be epiphytic, sending down aerial roots to the ground and later in life to become free standing individuals. They are often found in the company of the epiphytic species *Astelia solandri* and *Collospermum hastatum* that establishes in the forks of large trees, thereby providing stable platforms.

Broadleaf is excellent for shelter and pots. It grows quickly and is dry and wind tolerant as well as full sun and some salt spray. They are used in a variety of ways in gardens, although mostly for hedging.

More information available online:

<https://greenmachine.nz/collections/griselinea>

Kōhūhū | Black Matipo | *Pittosporum tenuifolium*

A large shrub or small tree with attractive dense foliage and scented flowers. Hedges well for lower-tier farm shelter or suburban privacy screening. Excellent revegetation species. Tolerates wind, drought, frost and coastal conditions. Attractive to bees. Evergreen. Very frost hardy.

Kōhūhū is a popular garden plant in New Zealand and overseas, often used a hedge or as visual backdrop. It is sometimes grown under the cultivar name 'Nigricans', so called because of its black stems. In horticulture it is valued for its coloured foliage (cultivated variations include purple, "silver" and variegated leaves), and for its tolerance of some horticulturally difficult growing conditions, including dry soils and shade.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pittosporum-tenuifolium/>

Manuka | New Zealand teatree | *Leptospermum scoparium*

Tree, shrub (10m - 15m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

Manuka is probably the best known New Zealand tree due to all its different uses. From honey to body lotions and tea. Ornamental as individual or in groups with masses stunning white flowers during flowering and many benefit for native wildlife. Often regarded as a shrub or a small tree up to 5 metre in height with small leaves with a short spine at the tip, giving it a somewhat prickly feel when handled, in opposite to the similar kanuka whose leaves are soft when handled. The trunk has a light grey or brown coloration, peeling in long papery flakes. Branches are often sitting dense and erect. The flowers are white or sometimes pinkish and can sometimes almost cover the crown, giving the tree an appearance of being covered in snow. A small dry seed capsule is followed after flowering.

Easy to care for and tolerant of a wide range of conditions and even some frost. Require however somewhat moist soil until fully established.

More information available online:

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/grow-manuka-tree-35690.html>

Mapou | Red Mapou | *Myrsine australis*

Tree (under 10m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, shade, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

A handsome small tree with bright red twigs and grey trunk and branches in older individuals, bearing wavy lime greenish leaves with pale undersides dotted with oil glands.

Mapou sometimes similar to kamahi from a distance. Male and female sits on separate trees and are needed if fruit is required. Small cream coloured flowers appear on crowded branchlets around January to mid-autumn. After flowering small black fruits are produced with a single black seed, these grow directly on the stem of the plant. These takes about a year to ripe and are very popular with kereru, tui, hihi and other native birds.

Mapou is easy to care for and will grow in most situations even dry ones and is often used in native restoration and revegetation plantings. Can also be used and trimmed to a hedge.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myrsine-australis/>

Whauwhaupaku | Five-finger | *Pseudopanax arboreus*

Tree (10m - 15m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, shade, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

A fast growing small tree well known for its luxuriant growth and purple fruit in large obvious clusters from spring to early autumn. The leaves consist of five to seven large glossy leaflets, arranged in a palmate arrangement with leaves around a central stalk. The tree is often multi-branched tree to 8 metre tall, with a rough trunk in grey. branches and branchlets brittle.

Flowers in purple fragrant clusters during winter with inside flowers in lime-green white. Trees have male and females flowers on separate trees. Flowers are very attractive with nectar eating insects as well as native birds like tui, bellbirds and hihi. Fruit is very popular with a wide range of native birds like tui, saddleback and kereru.

Grows well in most soils and situations and often used in the shrubbery, in tubs, as a specimen or for revegetation purposes. Five-finger is an endemic species and gives a distinctly kiwi character to any ornamental garden.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudopanax-arboreus/>

Group 5 – Medium sized plants and shrubs

Coastal tree daisy | *Olearia solandri*

Tree, shrub (under 10m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, wetlands and water features

Perfect for a coastal garden! A shrub or small tree with stiff, spreading, yellow, angled branches and small 5-8 mm long leathery dark green leaves with a white underside and small white flowers in autumn, highly scented. Can grow and become a thick dense bush up to 4x3 metre, but often less. The seeds following flowering are fluffy and wind dispersed, often colonising rocks and cliff formations of coastal areas.

It is very wind tolerant and hardy, tolerating dry conditions and can even be trimmed to be used as a hedge.

More information available online:

<https://greenmachine.nz/collections/olearia/coastal>

Harakeke | Flax | *Phormium tenax*

Other plant - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, sunny, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

A robust and well known plant in gardens with its long sword-shaped leaves up to 2 metre tall and flower stalks that can reach up to 4 metres. It is very hardy and fast growing with wide range of environmental tolerances. It will grow in dry and/or wet conditions, withstand strong coastal winds and are even frost hardy. Swamp flax can be common from lowland and coastal areas to montane forest, usually but not exclusively, in wetlands and in open ground along riversides.

It can be used as a pioneer plant species and should be planted first in a restoration plan as it establishes quickly and will shelter other plants. Both species of Phormium will often support a large community of animals, providing shelter and an extensive food resource. Tui, bellbirds, saddlebacks, short tailed bats, geckos and several types of insects, like species of native bees feed on the nectar from the flowers. Many fascinating insects will go through their complete lifecycle on a flax plant without causing any harm to this plant. The flowers in, October to November (-January) are brownish red, but can also be pink or yellow. They are followed by black seed pods that stand upright from the stems like small bananas.

Traditional uses of flax, no fibre plant was more important to Maori than flax. Each pa or marae typically had a pa harakeke or flax plantation. Flax grows well in pots and containers with full sun. It tolerates both dry and moist soil and will always look great.

More information available online:

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/plants/ethnobotany/weaving-plants/information-sheets/harakeke-and-wharariki>

Mingimingi | *Coprosma propinqua*

Shrub - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

A great small leaved divaricating bushy shrub for open exposed seaside properties and coastal forest gardens with dense wide-angled branches superb to use as hedge hideout for insects and lizards. Can grow between 1 up to 4 metre tall, but can easily be controlled if needed. Otherwise does usually does need much control due to its dense growth habit. The small leaves are glossy and dark green on grey or orange bark. Flowering occurs between February and March with separate male and female plants. Pollination occur by wind. The stunningly beautiful fruit in autumn is a drupe, in a pale coloration when unripe, turning dark blue or blue-flecked when ripe and is eaten and dispersed by many species of native birds as well as insects and reptiles.

Now rare in Wellington City – only a few trees remain in the wild here. Adds complexity to small garden. Very tolerant to wide range of conditions.

More information available online:

<https://greenmachine.nz/collections/twiggy-coprosma>

Tauhinu | Cottonwood | *Ozothamnus leptophyllus*

Tauhinu can form a large shrub up to 5m tall with a heath-like appearance. It has small leathery, narrow leaves and is often found in coastal dunes and scrubland. Flowering occurs from November to February. The flowers appear at the tips of branches as a dull white body of papery scales in tight clusters. The seeds that form are covered in fuzz and are wind dispersed.

It copes with harsh conditions and copes with everything from snow to salt-spray (the track would easily be inundated in a good blow). A good plant for a dry garden.

More information available online:

<http://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz/cottonwood>

Taupata | Mirror plant | *Coprosma repens*

Tree, shrub (under 10m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony

Taupata can grow in a variety of conditions, but does best in a sunny spot, in a loose, sandy soil. In the garden, where conditions are a little less harsh than the beach, the leaves grow broader and flatter, and taupata can be easily grown and pruned to a hedge of 1-2m tall. This extremely tough plant with its leathery leaves allows it to withstand salt spray, making this a plant excellent growing close to the sea. At the beach, the leaves are often partly rolled up to decrease their surface area, which helps them avoid moisture loss from the wind.

The small flowers appear in spring and have sexes on separate individuals. They have a creamy coloration and are wind pollinated. After flowering, female plants fruits profusely with bright orange coloured drupes in summer and autumn (January- April) and much prized by native birds. The fruit is sweet and juicy with a slight bitter aftertaste. The seeds, although small, can be roasted and provide a potable coffee substitute (the Coprosmas are members of the coffee family, Rubiaceae).

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-repens/>

Group 6 – Small plants and grasses

Koromiko | Hebe | *Hebe stricta*

Tree, shrub (under 10m) - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

A common bushy shrub with narrow pointed leaves up to 4 meters tall, but often less. Its white flowers up to 20 cm with splashes of purple or violet is very popular with native butterflies and bees. Produced at the growing top for display above the rest of foliage. Flowering occurs summer and autumn, but can be all year around in good situations. The leaves are long and dull, ranging from yellowish to light green in colour, ending with a long tip. Fast growing, easily established and prefers open, exposed habitats, on the edge of bush or wetlands, making it useful for shelters and as a pioneer species.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-stricta-var-stricta/>

Pukio | Swamp sedge | *Carex virgata*

Grass or similar - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

A vigorous handsome bright green tussock 50-100 cm wide for wet parts of the garden or along a pond edge. Narrow, quite sharp edged, leaves quite distinct having a dark midrib and darkish margins while the in-between areas are a pale whitish green. Similar looking to *Carex secta*, however does not grow to same size. As it is a successful colonising plant, it can be used for both wet areas but it will also grow in dry situations. It can also be used in swamp and wetland restorations, drain margins, seepages and wet pastures. Does however not like fast flowing or deep water. Can be used as a underplant to existing canopy. Mass plant on an exposed bank to create foliage movement in the wind. Looks nice as a foliage contrast with divaricating shrubs like kaikomako. Also frost tolerant.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-virgata/>

Purei | Maruka grass | *Carex secta*

Grass or similar - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, shade, partial shade, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony, wetlands and water features

A large beautiful tussock forming sedge. Older individuals located in moist to wet soils, often form thick trunk-like bases up to a 1 metre tall of old matted rhizomes, roots and old culm bases. It is a well-known species and it is a most useful plant for use in enhancing wetlands and ponds. Prefers wet conditions and full sun, but will also tolerate dry shade. In open situations it can take on a more yellow-green colouration, intensified during the winter season. Attractive dark brown seed heads in summer.

More information available online:

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-secta/>

Silver Tussock | *Poa cita*

Grass or similar - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: partial shade, sunny, exposure, coastal and dune garden, small garden or balcony

Of our native *Poa* species, the silver tussock is the most commonly planted one - due to its attractive appearance and its tolerance towards dry, exposed habitats.

Its fast-growing, densely tufted about 50cm tall, graceful and tawny-green with very fine needle like grey-green to blue-green foliage.

Bears feathery flower heads during summer. A great plant in mass plantings or as borders. Thrives in poor soil, dry sunny conditions and is even tolerate of frost. Is salt tolerant and great for coastal plantings or containers.

More information available online:

<https://greenmachine.nz/collections/poacita/grass>

Toetoe | *Austroderia toetoe*

Grass or similar - native to the Wellington Region

Suits: damp, dry, sunny, shelter, exposure, coastal forest garden, coastal and dune garden, wetlands and water features

Previously known as *Cortaderia toe toe*, this species has recently changed its genus name. This toetoe is confined to the lower North Island only and is an erect forming tussock growing up to 4 metres tall with large creamy flower plumes on tall stems, an iconic part of this landscape. It has coarse, green, flat, narrow 2–5 cm wide, with sharp-edged leaves from 1 to 3 m long. Often seen growing together with the swamp flax/harakeke (*Phormium tenax*).

They are generally hardy, being resilient to wind, salt spray and will grow well in full or partial sun, in dry or wet soil.

Two closely related South American species of Pampas Grass, which have been introduced are often mistaken for toetoe. These introduced species tend to take over from the native toetoe and are regarded as highly invasive. The South American species curl up toward the leaf base, ultimately decaying to a state resembling wood shavings while the dead leaves of toetoe drop off at the base of the plant. Pampas grass flowers during autumn, rather than the toetoe in spring.

More information available online:

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/plants/ethnobotany/weaving-plants/information-sheets/toetoe>