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Did you know?

New Zealand trees have evolved without the availability of long-tongued bees that typically pollinate plants in other parts of the world. This has meant that native trees have developed a number of unusual features for pollination.

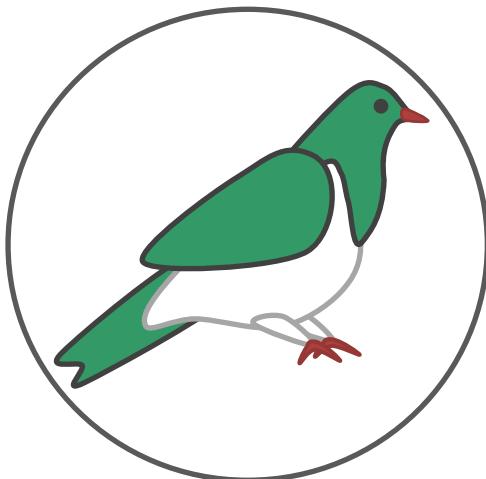
Some trees developed flowers to benefit wind-pollination. In order to minimise self-pollination, they have developed species that have separate male and female flower-bearing trees (dioecious). Dioecious plants make up less than 2% of plants found in Europe, but about 12% of New Zealand native plants.

Other trees have developed flowers to suit the native animals that are available. Trees with large, brightly coloured flowers are usually pollinated by birds, such as tui and waxeyes, which are attracted to the bright colours and nectar sources.

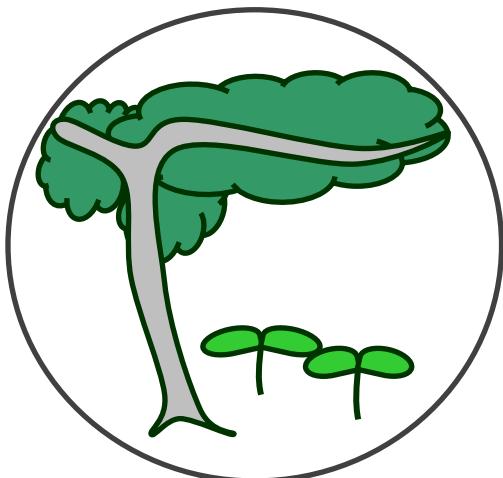
Trees with white flowers are mostly pollinated by beetles, moths, flies and small native bees, as they can see the white colour easily. These flowers are also often scented, which helps to attract insects.

Once the plants are pollinated, many develop brightly coloured fleshy berries. These attract native birds to eat the seeds, who then distribute the seeds in their droppings, scattering the seeds away from the parent plant. Over three-quarters of our native plants rely on birds to disperse their seeds.

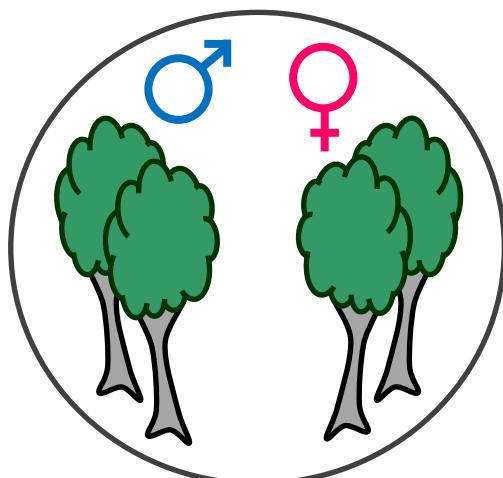
Key



Indicates the plant is a good food source (nectar and/or seeds) for native birds.



Indicates the plant is a good nursery plant, providing shelter and shade that allows other plants to establish themselves.



Indicates that male and female flowers are grown on separate trees (dioecious). Therefore best when a number of trees are planted together to ensure fruiting occurs.

Black Ponga



(Mamaku, Black Tree Fern)



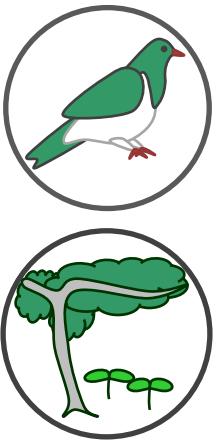
Mature Height: Can grow up to 20 metres.

Typical Habitat: Damp shaded gully areas, preferably sheltered from the wind. Will tolerate sunshine once established. Frost sensitive.

Habitat Benefits: Good for riparian planting. Large spreading canopies of fronds provide shade to waterways.

Cabbage Tree

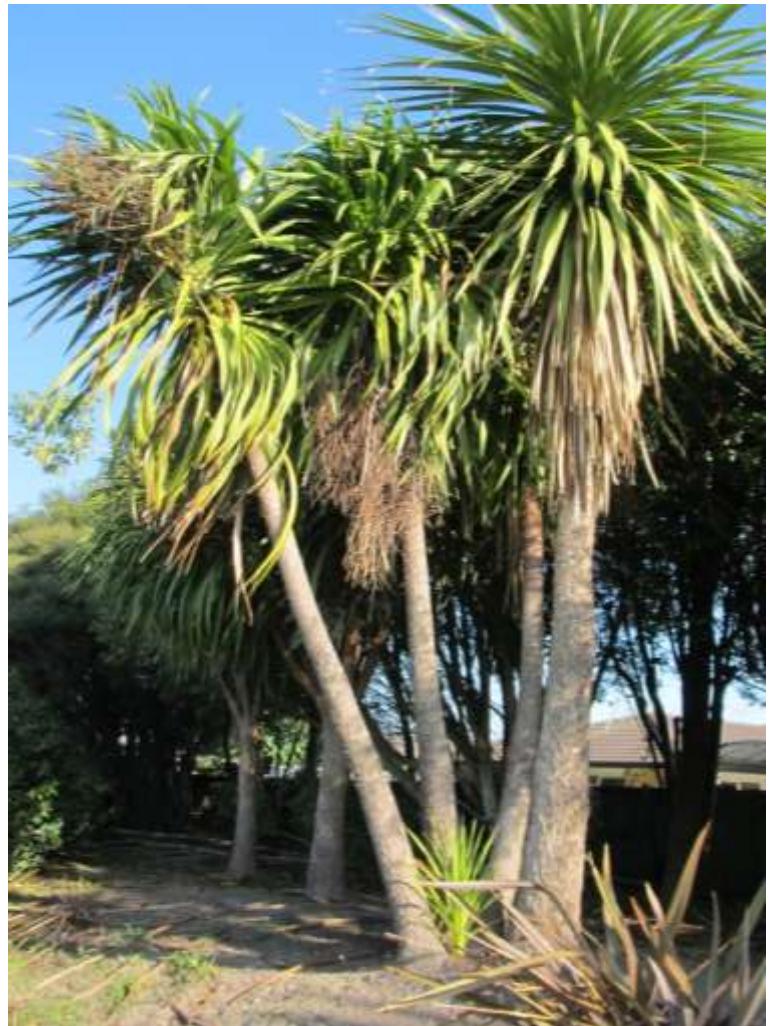
(*Ti, Ti Kouka*)



Mature Height: 12 to 20 metres.

Typical Habitat:
Farmland, open places and wetlands.
Prefers full sunlight.

Habitat Benefits:
Their strong root system helps stop soil from erosion on steep slopes. Good for riparian planting.
Flowers in summer, with bluish-white berries that are popular with birds.



Carex



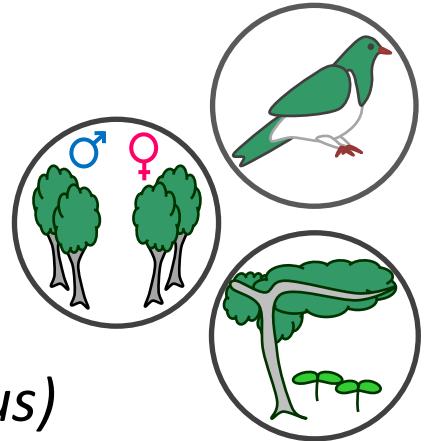
Mature Height: Up to 1m high.

Typical Habitat: Riparian areas – swamps, wetlands and stream banks.

Habitat Benefits: Protects the water edges from being eroded, and acts as a filter for runoff from surrounding farmland. Generates shade, which keeps water temperatures cooler, benefiting aquatic life.

Provides shelter for native birds and animals.

Five-finger



(Pseudopanax arboreus)



Mature Height: Up to 6m.

Typical Habitat: Lowland and coastal forests.

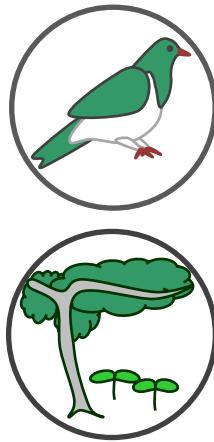
Grows well in most soils and situations.

Susceptible to grazing by possum. Male and female flowers occur on separate trees.

Habitat Benefits: Fast-growing, it can grow in regenerative areas.

Flax

(Harakeke)

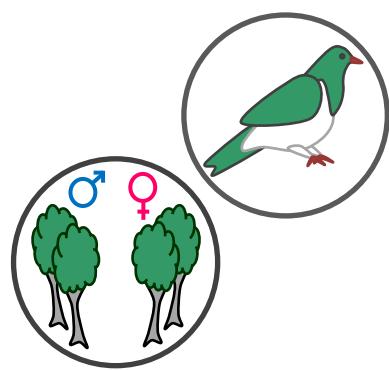


Mature Height: Up to 3 metres high.

Typical Habitat: Flax prefers rich, moist soil, including wetland areas. Best in an area protected from harsh winds.

Habitat Benefits: A nursery plant, providing shade and soil stability for other plants. Animals such as tui, bellbirds, bats, geckos, and insects such as bees, enjoy nectar from the flax flower.

Kahikatea

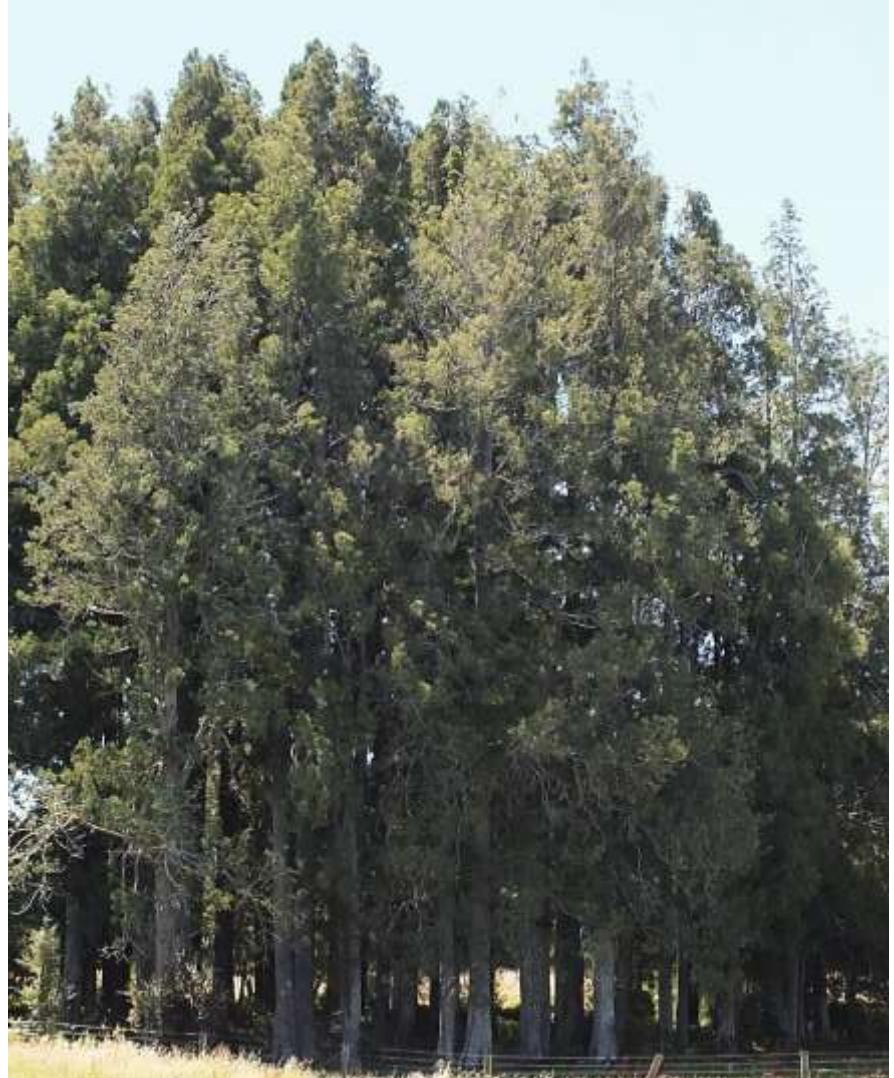


Mature Height:

Up to 60m

Typical Habitat:

Lowland forest and swampy areas. Prefers growing closely with other Kahikatea, as their intertwining roots help support each other in swampy ground. Likes sunny areas.



Habitat Benefits: Autumn berries provide a food source for native birds. Suitable for riparian planting, as it likes a moist area to grow in.

Kanuka



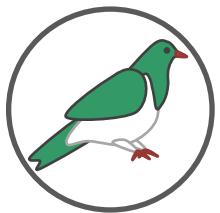
Mature Height: Up to 25m.

Typical Habitat:

Common from coastal to low-alpine regions, in wetlands, river banks, and dry hillsides. Dislikes shade.

Habitat Benefits: Important first trees for regeneration, providing ground-stabilisation and nursery shelter for other plants. Hardy plants not usually eaten by browsing animals such as sheep, cattle or goats.

Note: Unlike Manuka, the Kanuka leaves are soft to touch.



Karaka



Mature Height: Up to 15m

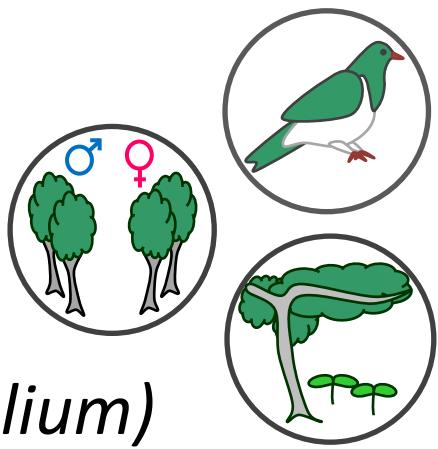
Typical Habitat: Coastal and lowland forests.

Tolerant of dry conditions, but frost tender when young, so best grown with some protection.

Habitat Benefits: The berries are edible for native birds but poisonous to humans.

Karo

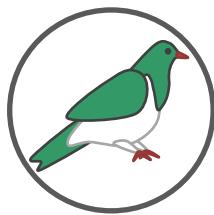
(*Pittosporum crassifolium*)



Mature Height: Up to 9 metres

Typical Habitat: Prefers coastal areas and along stream edges and forest margins.

Habitat Benefits: A hardy plant that is easy to grow and robust against strong prevailing winds. Provides a nursery for the other plants. Seeds, nectar and flowers provide food to native birds.



Kauri

Mature Height:

More than 50 metres.

Typical Habitat:

Lowland and hilly forests of

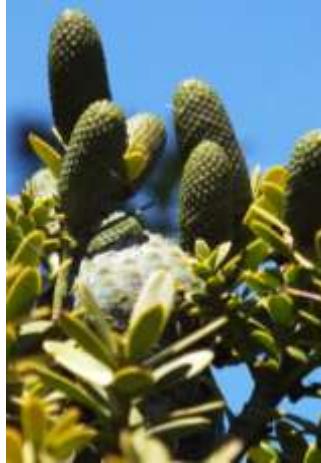
Northland. Flourishes on poorly drained, acidic clay soils.

Requires high light levels, so should be planted 5-10 m from other large trees, but with other trees such as

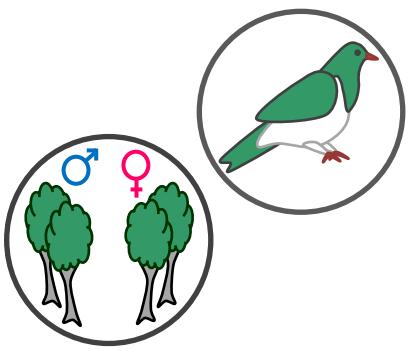
Manuka/Kanuka to provide shelter until established.

Habitat Benefits: Seeds are eaten by kaka, kakariki and

weta. Roots are easily damaged by goats, pigs and stock.



Kawakawa

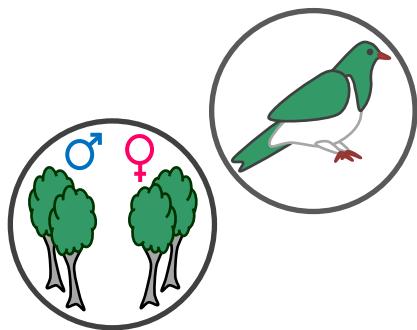


Mature Height: Up to 6m.

Typical Habitat: Coastal areas and lowland forests. Prefers a moist rich free-draining soil, in a semi-shade to shady position. It will tolerate wind, but is frost tender.

Habitat Benefits: Its summer fruits are edible to a number of native birds. Good for planting under established canopy trees.

Kohekohē



Mature Height: Up to 15m.

Typical Habitat: Low land and coastal forests. Prefers shaded or semi-shaded locations and a rich free-draining soil. Can be frost tender when young.

Susceptible to browsing from possums.

Habitat Benefits: A fast growing tree. Flowers are an important food source for tui and bellbirds in winter. The seed casings are eaten by a number of native birds.

Korokio



(Corokia)

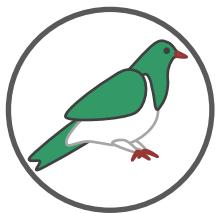


Mature Height: Up to 2m high.

Typical Habitat: Primarily coastal, it can tolerate dry, windy locations, including salt winds. Likes full sun, and will tolerate poor soils.

Habitat Benefits: Grows in marginal, exposed locations. A dense, hardy shrub that can provide shelter from wind for other plants.

Kowhai



Mature Height: Up to 10m.

Typical Habitat:
Along streams and riparian areas, forest margins and open land. Frost tender when young.



Habitat Benefits: Important nectar source for tui and bellbird. Wood pigeon / kereru eat the leaves and flowers. Good for riparian planting as it prefers open areas, good sunlight and damp conditions.

Lacebark



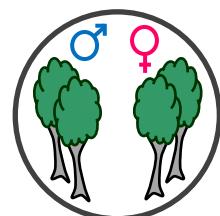
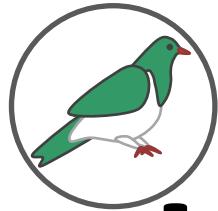
(Houhere)



Mature Height: Around 9 metres tall.

Typical Habitat: Likes forest margins and along river banks, with well-drained soil and in a sunny or partly shaded location.

Habitat Benefits: Nursery trees that are fast-growing, and establish on disturbed sites. Susceptible to browsing from goats and possums.



Lemonwood

(Tarata), (*Pittosporum eugenioides*)



Mature Height: Grows to around 12m tall.

Typical Habitat: Typically grows in areas up to 600m above sea level. Prefers well drained, fertile soils – dislikes waterlogged soils.

Habitat Benefits: Hardy and fast growing. Can be used in exposed locations to provide shelter from wind for other plants.

Note: Young leaves are lemon-scented when crushed – hence the name Lemonwood.

Libertia



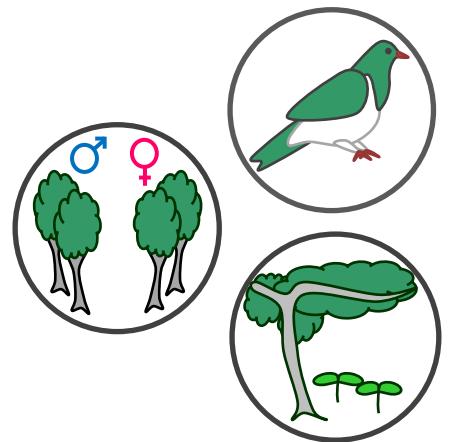
Mature Height: Grows up to 0.4m

Typical Habitat: Can grow on exposed areas such as ridges, river banks, and coastal cliffs, but grows better when some shade is available.

Habitat Benefits: Hardy. Will grow in poor soil. Can be used on exposed sites to help prevent soil erosion.

Mahoe

(Whiteywood)



Mature Height: Up to 10m tall

Typical Habitat: Common in lowland forests.

Prefers open areas including forest edges, gullies, and stream banks.

Habitat Benefits: The berries are eaten by native animals such as Kereru, Tui and some gecko species. Good for riparian planting , as it grows best in fertile, well-drained soil.

Makamaka



Mature Height: Up to 6m tall.

Typical Habitat: Found only in Northland, in lowland forest edges, and stream banks. Prefers full sun or

part-shade, with damp areas. Not tolerant of drought.

Habitat

Benefits: Fast growing, it is useful for riparian planting in sheltered damp areas.



Manuka



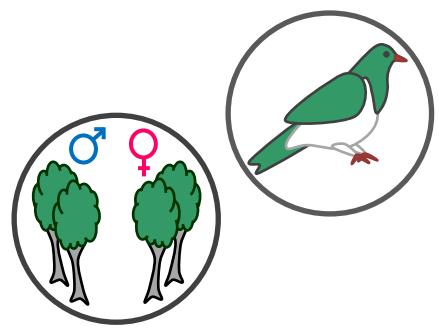
Mature Height: Up to 10m.

Typical Habitat: As per Kanuka, common from coastal to low-alpine regions, in wetlands, river banks, and dry hillsides. Dislikes shade.

Habitat Benefits: As per Kanuka, important first trees for regeneration as they provide ground-stabilisation and nursery shelter for other plants. Hardy plants not usually eaten by browsing animals such as sheep, cattle or goats.

Note: The leaves of Manuka are prickly to touch.

Miro



Mature Height: Up to 25 m.

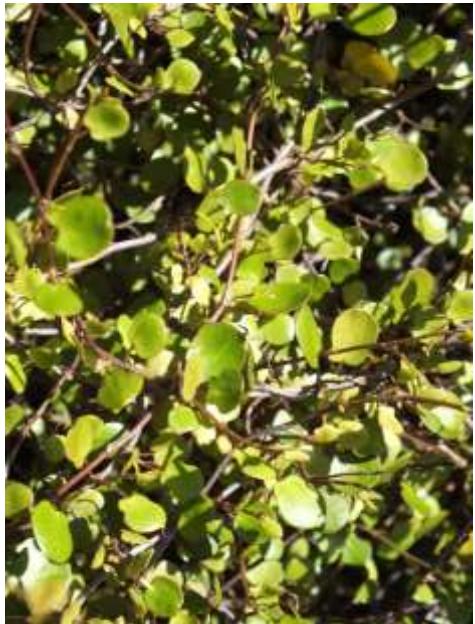
Typical Habitat: Prefers moist, well-drained soils, but will tolerate drier conditions once established.

Habitat Benefits: The seeds provide a winter food source for birds.



Muehlenbeckia

(Pohuehue)



Mature Height: Up to 5m, covering other trees.

Typical Habitat: Coastal scrub and forest margins. A sprawling creeper/climber that grows in to a tangled mass, and will climb over other plants.

Habitat Benefits: Its smothering growth stabilises disturbed soil and also suppresses growth of weeds such as blackberries. Provides shelter and edible fruit for birds, insects and lizards.

Native Hibiscus

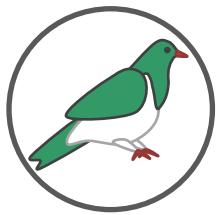
(Puarangi)



Mature Height: Up to 1m.

Typical Habitat: Coastal areas. Grows best in open areas, including recently disturbed land. Prone to browsing by grazing animals, and can be swamped by faster growing weeds.

Habitat Benefits: Critically endangered in the wild, so plant this to continue its existence.



Nikau



Mature Height: Up to 18m high.

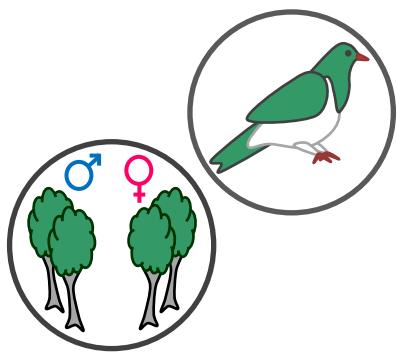
Typical Habitat: Coastal and lowland forest. Prefers damp ground, with shade or semi-shade.

Habitat Benefits: The berries (which take a year to ripen) are a good food source for wood pigeon / kereru. Provides nectar for animals such as tui, silveryeyes and bees. One of the only trees to provide a year-round food source (nectar and berries) for native birds.



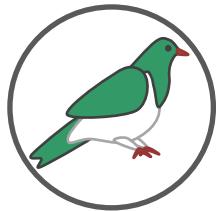
Pigeonwood

(Porokaiwhiri)



Mature Height: Up to 12m.
Typical Habitat: Common in lowland forests, particularly on the margins. Prefers a sheltered site, with moist fertile soil, in semi-shade. Frost tender when young.
Habitat Benefits: The wood pigeon / kereru eat the fruit

when other fruits are scarce. The fruit is also eaten by saddleback, tui and kaka. Plant a number of trees together, so fruiting will occur.



Pohutukawa

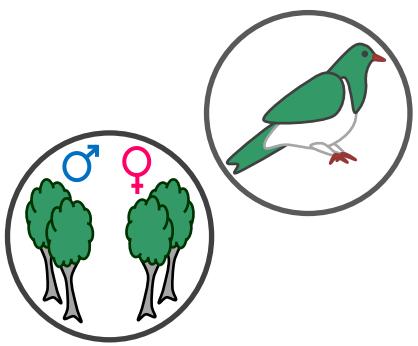


Mature Height: Up to 20m high, and 35m wide.

Typical Habitat: Prefers warm drier areas close to the coast. Young trees are frost tender.

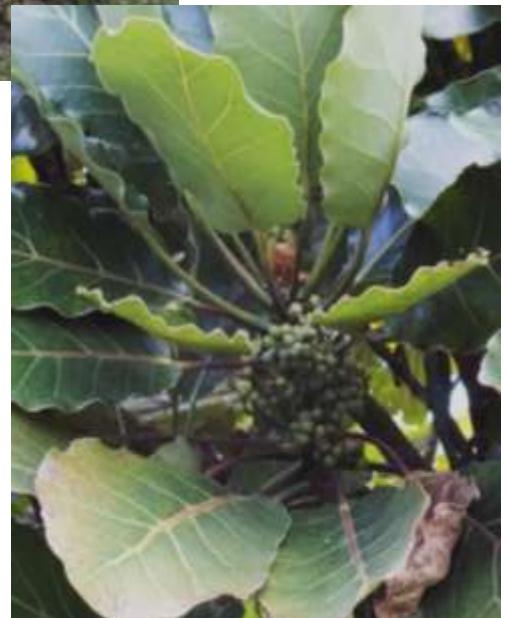
Habitat Benefits: Salt tolerant. Good pioneer plants that can grow on bare ground and rock. Flowers provide nectar for tui, stitchbird, bellbird and bees.

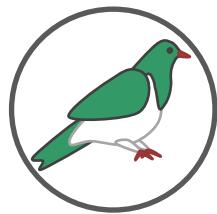
Puka



Mature Height: Up to 10m tall.
Typical Habitat: Found in coastal and lowland forests. Likes fertile soils. Prefers full sun and is frost tender.

Habitat Benefits: A hardy plant that can grow in exposed (frost-free) places. The seeds are edible to birds.





Puriri



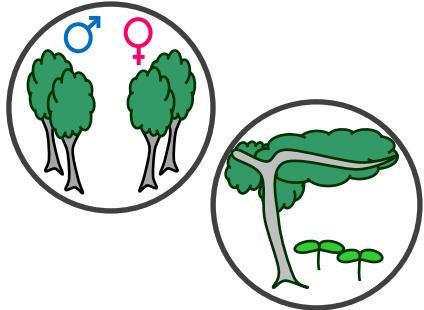
Mature Height: Up to 20m tall.

Typical Habitat: Coastal and lowland forest.

Prefers fertile soil.

Habitat Benefits: Produces flowers and berries almost all year round which make it attractive to birds such as tui and the wood pigeon/ kereru, especially at times of the year when other food sources are scarce.

Red Matipo



(Mapou)

(Myrsine australis)- not a *Pittosporum*!



Mature Height: Up to 6 metres.

Typical Habitat: A common tree in the margins coastal and lowland forests. Frost hardy, it grows best in full sun to part-shade.

Habitat Benefits: The fruit are popular with birds such as tauhou/waxeyes. A

good plant for regeneration projects as can grow in full sun, and provide shade to other plants.

Rengarenga

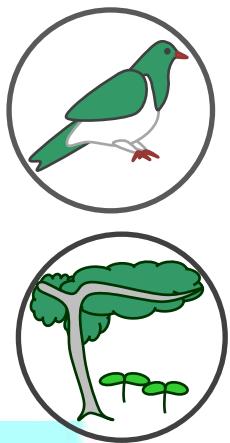


Height: Up to about 0.5m.

Typical Habitat: Coastal and rocky areas. Grows well in sunny or partly shaded areas, and is drought tolerant once established. Frost tender.

Habitat Benefits: Provides a good ground cover. A hardy plant in coastal areas. A good source of nectar for bees.

Rewarewa

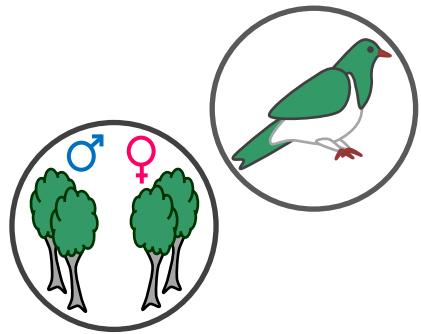


Mature Height: Up to 35 m high.

Typical Habitat: Lowland forests. Prefers well-drained soils.

Habitat Benefits: A pioneer species that can provide shelter for other plants. Tolerates seasonal drought and frost. Suitable for river bank stabilisation, as long as it does not get too wet. Flowers are rich in nectar.

Rimu

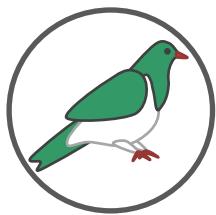


Mature Height: Up to 50 metres.

Typical Habitat: Prefers lowland and hilly forests with well-drained, fertile soil. Needs a partially shaded location when younger. (Not shaded or full-sun).

Habitat Benefits:
Seeds provide a food source for birds.

Taraire



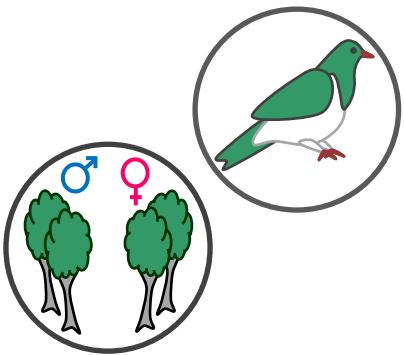
Mature Height:
Up to 25 m tall.

**Typical
Habitat:**
Coastal and
lowland
forests,
primarily in
Northland.
Prefers fertile
soil in sun or
semi-shade.

Frost tender when young and intolerant of wind.

Habitat Benefits: The fruit provides a source of winter food for wood pigeon / kereru.

Titoki



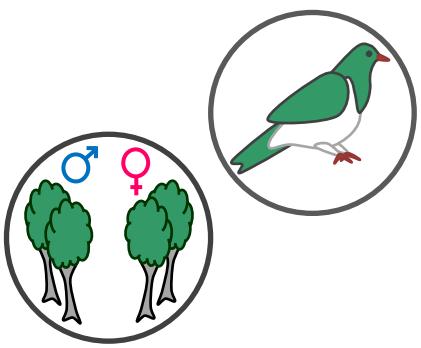
Mature Height:

Up to 18 metres

Typical Habitat: Coastal and lowland forest particularly river flats, well-drained soil. Likes full sun or part shade, frost tender when young.

Habitat Benefits: The bright red fruit are popular with wood pigeon/kereru and other native birds.

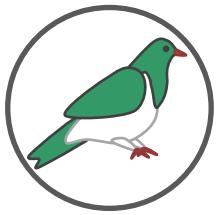
Totara



Mature Height: 30 metres tall.

Typical Habitat: Widespread, found together in lowland forests, but one of the few big native trees that will grow out in the open.

Habitat Benefits: The berries are important in the autumn diet of a range of native birds. Kaka also dig for insects under the bark.



Wharangi



Mature Height: Grows up to 7 m.

Typical Habitat: Common in lowland and the edges of coastal forests. Can be frost tender in exposed places.

Habitat Benefits: The berries are a food source for birds from late spring to late summer.

Note: Some research suggests that honey made from the nectar of the Wharangi can be toxic to humans (although it does not appear to harm the bees).

Whau



Mature Height: Up to 6m high.

Typical Habitat: Coastal and lowland forests. This tree requires full sun, and does not like very dry, or very wet soil. It is easily damaged by frost and wind. Susceptible to grazing by browsing animals.

Habitat Benefits: A fast-growing pioneer tree generating shade for other, slower-growing trees to grow under. Has a short life of about 10 yrs, so will die off as other trees become established.

