



Subalpine native plants

**Grown from seed collected from
the Mackenzie County Council
District**

The subalpine region is dominated by various species of snow tussock, occupying a range of environmental conditions. The broad-leaved snow tussock (*Chionochloa flavescens*) and red tussock/ hau mata (*Chionochloa rubra*) prefer wetter sites, where as the narrow-leaved snow tussock/wī kura (*Chionochloa rigida*) and the slim-leaved snow tussock (*Chionochloa macra*) prefer drier sites.

Shrub species are also common in the sub-alpine environment and form extensive communities, commonly referred to as a subalpine shrub zone. Snow tōtara (*Podocarpus nivalis*), mountain toatoa (*Phyllocladus alpinus*), porcupine shrub (*Meliccytus alpinus*), species of turpentine shrubs (*Dracophyllum*), Hebes/koromiko, and Coprosma/karamū species are common throughout this area.

An important part of the subalpine flora is a wide diversity of herbaceous plant species. Common species include the mountain daisies (Celmisia/tikumu), speargrass/taramea (Aciphylla), small tussocks and grasses – such as mountain fescue (*Festuca matthewsii*) and carpet grass (*Chionochloa australis*), gentians and mountain buttercups/kawariki (*Ranunculus*). Mats, or cushion plants, designed to withstand harsh conditions, are also a feature of sub-alpine flora. Vegetable sheep, such as *Raoulia exima*, are an excellent example of the cushion plant habit.

Two threatened species found growing in the subalpine zone in Canterbury are *Pittosporum patulum* and *Hebe cupressoides*.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

T = threatened

1. *Acaena caesiiglauca*
2. *Acaena inermis*
3. *Aciphylla aurea* taramea, golden spaniard
4. *Aciphylla montana*
5. *Aciphylla scott-thomsonii*
6. *Aciphylla subflabellata*
7. *Aristotelia fruticosa* mountain wineberry
8. *Brachyglottis bellidioides*
9. *Brachyglottis bennetii*
10. *Brachyglottis cassinioides*
11. *Carmichaelia grandiflora*
12. *Carmichaelia petriei* desert broom
13. *Carmichaelia uniflora*
14. *Celmisia semicordata* false spaniard
15. *Chionochloa rigida*
wī kura, narrow leaved snow tussock
16. *Chionochloa rubra* haumata, red tussock
17. *Coprosma atropurpurea*
18. *Coprosma ciliata*
19. *Chionochloa conspicua* hunangāmoho
20. *Chionochloa flavescens*
broad leaved snow tussock
21. *Coprosma propinqua*
22. *Coprosma 'Taylorii'*
23. *Coprosma rugosa*
24. *Carmichaelia crassicaule*
25. *Coriaria angustissima*
26. *Coriaria sarmentosa*
27. *Corokia cotoneaster* korokio
28. *Craspedia uniflora* woollyhead
29. *Discaria toumatu* matagouri, tūmatakuru
30. *Festuca matthewsii* alpine fescue tussock
31. *Festuca novae-zelandiae* fescue tussock
32. *Hebe buchannii*
33. *Hebe cupressoides*
34. *Hebe haastii*
35. *Hebe macrantha*
36. *Hebe odora*
37. *Hebe pinguifolia*
38. *Hebe subalpina*
39. *Meliccytus alpinus* porcupine shrub
40. *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*
41. *Olearia cymbifolia* shrub daisy
42. *Olearia fimbriata*
43. *Olearia virgata*
44. *Ozothamus leptophylla* tauhinu, golden cottonwood
45. *Phyllocladus alpinus* mountain toatoa
46. *Pimelea prostrata*
47. *Pittosporum patulum* (T)
48. *Poa colensoi* blue tussock
49. *Poa macra*
50. *Ranunculus lyallii*
51. *Sophora microphylla* kōwhai
52. *Sophora prostrata* dwarf kōwhai