



Ngāi Tahu taonga plant species

What are taonga species?

Taonga species are native birds, plants and animals of special cultural significance and importance to Ngāi Tahu. The plants are listed below.

The Crown's settlement with Ngāi Tahu (Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998) included recognition of the special traditional relationship Ngāi Tahu have with taonga species. Ngāi Tahu participates in the management of those species in many ways, including representation on species recovery groups.

Who is Ngāi Tahu?

Ngāi Tahu is a South Island iwi. Their takiwā (ancestral land) is defined by the Te Rūnanga Ngāi Tahu Act 1996. It covers most of Te Wai Pounamu (South Island) – excluding a northern segment – and the islands to the south including Stewart Island/Rakiura and other islands.

Reference; *Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998; Section 287, Schedule 97.*

For names of species not included on this list, the dictionary approved for reference by Ngāi Tahu is; *A dictionary of the Maori Language by Herbert W Williams, MA. Seventh edition 1971, A.R. Shearer, Government printer, Wellington.*

Plants

Māori name	English name	Scientific name
akatorotoro	white rata	<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>
aruhe	bracken/fernroot	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> var <i>esculentum</i>
harakeke	flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
houhi	mountain ribbonwood	<i>Hoheria lyalli</i> and <i>H.glabata</i>
kaikahikatea	kahikatea/white pine	<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>
kamahi	kamahi	<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>
kānuka	kanuka	<i>Kunzia ericoides</i>
kāpuka	broadleaf	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>
Karaeopirita	supplejack	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>
karaka	New Zealand laurel	<i>Corynocarpus laevigata</i>
karamū	<i>Coprosma</i> spp.	<i>Coprosma robusta</i> , <i>C. lucida</i> , <i>C. foetidissima</i>
kātote	tree fern	<i>Cyathea smithii</i>
kiekie	kiekie	<i>Freycinetia baueriana</i> subsp <i>banksii</i>
kōhia	New Zealand passionfruit	<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>
korokio	wire/netting bush	<i>Corokia buddleoides</i>
koromiko/koromuka	hebe	<i>Hebe salicifolia</i>
kōtukutuku	native tree fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>



Māori name	English name	Scientific name
kōwhai/kōhai	kowhai	<i>Sophora microphylla</i>
mamaku	tree fern	<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>
mānia	sedge	<i>Carex lucida</i>
mānuka/kahikātoa	tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
māpou	red matipo	<i>Myrsine australis</i>
mataī	matai/black pine	<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>
miro	miro/brown pine	<i>Podocarpus ferrugineus</i>
nīkau	New Zealand palm	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>
Ngaio	fern	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>
Panako	fern	<i>Asplenium obtusatum, Botrychium australe</i>
pātōtara	dwarf mingimingi	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>
pīngao	golden sand sedge	<i>Desmoschoenus spiralis</i>
pokākā	pokaka	<i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i>
ponga/poka	tree fern	<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>
rātā	Southern rata	<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>
raupō	bulrush	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>
rautawhiri/kōhūtū	black matipo/mapou	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>
rimu	rimu/red pine	<i>Dacrydium cypressinum</i>
rimurapa	bull kelp	<i>Durvillaea antarctica</i>
taramea	speargrass/spaniard	<i>Aciphylla</i> spp.
tarata	lemonwood	<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>
tawhai	beech	<i>Nothofagus</i> spp.
tete-a-weka	muttonbird scrub	<i>Olearia angustifolia</i>
tikumu	mountain daisy	<i>Celmisia spectabilis</i> and <i>C. semicordata</i>
ti rākau/ti kōuka	cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>
titoki	New Zealand ash	<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>
toatoa	mountain toatoa/celery pine	<i>Phyllocladus alpinus</i>
toetoe	toetoe	<i>Cortaderia richardii</i>
tōtara	totara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>
tutu	tutu	<i>Coriaria</i> spp.
wharariki	mountain flax	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>
whinau	hinau	<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>
wī	silver tussock	<i>Poa cita</i>
wīwī	rushes	<i>Juncus</i> all native spp. & <i>J. maritimus</i>