

Native plants natural to Canterbury Plains



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The history of the native vegetation of the Canterbury Plains is one of succession, destruction and regeneration. For many millions of years prior to European settlement the patterns of native vegetation were defined by shifting rivers and creeks, floods, shingle build-up, alluvial deposits, soil damage and fire.

The plant life varied between:

1. Prostrate herbs and grasses on gravels.
2. Tussocks and small shrubs on younger terraces.
3. Woodland vegetation of kānuka, cabbage tree, olearia and kōwhai on higher, older terraces.
4. Dense woodlands of broad-leaf hardwoods such as karamū, lancewood, *Hoheria angustifolia*, *Lophomyrtus obcordata* etc. on deeper soils.
5. Podocarps on fingers of deep, moist soils.

Today's landscape has suffered 150 years of intensive manipulation, not only for economic reasons but also to transform it into one that is English in character. This has been achieved by the introduction of exotic trees, shrubs and grasses, and grazing, drainage and cultivation of the land.

Planting species represented in these display gardens will eventually provide a link between the native remnants of the Canterbury Plains, (kānuka forests of Eyrewell and Bankside reserves), the foothills (beech forest of the Oxford-Ashley area) and the tall podocarp/hardwood forests of Riccarton Bush in Christchurch and Port Hills reserves.

R = rare

T = threatened

Aciphylla subflabellata, kuri kuri, spear grass
Anemanthele lessoniana (R), hunangāmoho, wind grass, bamboo grass
Austroderia richardii, toetoe
Brachyscome pinnata (T)
Carex buchananii, matirewa, cutty grass
Carex comans, tussock grass
Carex flagellifera, mānia, tussock grass
Carmichaelia grandiflora
Carmichaelia kirkii (T)
Clematis marata
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma crassifolia
Coprosma intertexta (R)
Coprosma lucida, shining karamū
Coprosma obconica (R/T)
Coprosma sp. 'Taylorii'
Coprosma propinqua, mingimingi
Coprosma robusta, karamū
Coprosma rotundifolia, round-leaved coprosma
Coprosma rugosa
Coprosma pedicellata (R/T)
Coprosma virescens
Cordyline australis, tī kōuka, cabbage tree
Corokia cotoneaster, korokio, corokia

Elaeocarpus hookerianus, pōkākā
Festuca novae-zelandiae, fescue grass
Griselinia littoralis, pāpāuma, broadleaf
Helichrysum lanceolatum, niniao
Hypericum gramineum, rolled-leaf hypericum
Kunzea serotina, kānuka
Leptinella filiformis (T)
Leptinella squalida
Leptospermum scoparium, mānuka, tea tree
Lophomyrtus obcordata, rōhutu, NZ myrtle
Meliccytus alpinus, porcupine shrub
Muehlenbeckia astonii (T), shrubby tororaro
Myrsine australis, māpou, matipou
Myrsine divaricata, weeping māpou
Olearia adenocarpa (T), scented tree-daisy
Ozothamnus leptophyllus, tauhinu, golden cottonwood
Phormium tenax, harakeke, New Zealand flax
Pittosporum eugenioides, tarata, lemonwood
Pittosporum tenuifolium, kōhūhu
Plagianthus regius, mānatu, ribbonwood
Poa cita, wī, silver tussock
Podocarpus totara, tōtara
Pomaderris phyllicifolia var. *ericifolia* (T), tauhinu
Prumnopitys taxifolia, matai, black pine
Raukawa anomalus, whauwhaupaku
Sophora microphylla, kōwhai
Sophora prostrata, dwarf kōwhai
Teuclidium parvifolium (T)



Deeper soils
Podocarps

Higher, older terraces
Open woodland vegetation
Dense broadleaf hardwood

Young terraces
Tussocks and small shrubs

Gravels
Prostrate herbs and grasses