Plant Packages for Purpose Information Pack

Six native plant packages

Six different purposes

One easy way to choose the right plants



Motukārara Wholesale Conservation Nursery

03 329 7846

Motukarara@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz/conservationnursery



Restore habitat



Build resilience



Protect your land

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Plants grown to Order
Open by appointment only

About the Packages:

These packages are designed for landscape scale solutions. Every landscape has different challenges. Our plant packages bring together Canterbury native species selected for particular environments and restoration goals to create climate resilient landscapes. In order to keep things efficient and easy, our packages have a select number of species and utilise full grids of plants (so no dead space in your trailer).

These packages are a great starting point and you can add other species at a discounted cost. We recommend adding additional species after the first 3 years. This will enhance your biodiversity and give more sensitive species shade and protection from the wind and frosts.

Price and Spacing:

Starter Packages:	Full Packages
100 Plants	**1000 Plants**
$460 + GST	**$4,400 + GST**
1-1.5m spacing	1-1.5m spacing
~ 225m²	~ ¼ hectare
$100 non-refundanble deposit	$500 non-refundanble deposit

Deposits are required to secure your order - as these plants will be grown especially for you.

Payment information:

You can pay for the deposit upon confirmation of your order with eftpos or credit card. You can pay the rest of the balance either before or upon collection of plants. Payment can be done either in person at the Motukarara Nursery, over the phone (03 329 7846), or if you would like to pay via internet banking - please get in touch.



Motukārara Nursery Team with Plant Package Representees 2026 © DOCImage by Andy Harper

If you require an invoice:
Our wonderful DOC Accounts Team handles our Invoices. To be invoiced through DOC, we will need to set you up as a customer, please request a 'New Customer Form' to fill out.

(You will not receive an invoice or GST receipt unless you are set up as a customer).

Our Nursery

Motukārara Wholesale Conservation Nursery is a centre of excellence for restoration in Canterbury. Our team grows between 50,000 and 160,000 Canterbury-sourced native plants each year, with an emphasis on providing high-quality and resilient plants, conditioned to thrive in Canterbury. We are passionate about native plants and helping customers to achieve their restoration goals.
Plants are the backbone of our ecosystems, economies, landscapes and cultures. They are an essential part of thriving ecosystems and building climate resilience. Here at the local Motukārara Nursery we focus on local genetic provenance and plant survivability. Ensuring you get quality plants grown by passionate people.

What is Eco-sourcing?

Eco-sourcing means collecting seeds from the closest geographic remnant population to a planting site - to ensure a high survival rate. These plants have adapted genetics to thrive in the local conditions of the area. The plants in your package will be grown from seeds collected from the nearest available seed source.

We grow to Order

We collect seed from the Canterbury Plains & Foothills, Port Hills and Banks Peninsula each year from late December to early June.

↓

This seed is sown with care between June and September.

↓

Plants are then organised by growth and quality between February and September.

↓

Plants are hardened off to the conditions. We do this through exposing the plants to more sun, wind and weather exposure ~ and we reduce the watering.

This is to help strengthen them into strong plants, fit for the real world.

↓

We then go through a process of picking the healthiest plants for your order.

↓

They are ready to be collected and planted between May and September
(*Autumn and Winter planting ensures they get enough water to establish themselves*)



Seed Collection sieve technique on Kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) © Andy Snook

From Package to Planting

Our native plant packages have taken the guesswork out for you

Step 1: Order Your Plant Package

- Wetland & Riparian
- Erosion
- Dryland
- Fire Smart
- Banks Peninsula Forest
- Canterbury Plains Forest

Step 2: Plan your planting

Consider where you want to plant, how much area you want to cover and what preparation the site needs.

- **Site conditions:** Identify areas exposed to drought, wind, frost or waterlogging, and ensure the site is suitable for your package.
- **Farm access:** Allow for machinery, tracks, gateways, fences and ongoing property operations.
- **Stock management:** Plan fencing or other protection to prevent livestock trampling or grazing young plants.
- **Site preparation:** Allow enough time and budget for weed control before and after planting.
- **Plan to protect**: Plan how you will manage weeds during the first few years.

For shelterbelts, riparian margins, erosion-prone areas or larger restoration projects, consider how the planting layout will suit your specific goals.



Restoration Site at Lake Ellsemere
© Gary Boyd



Ripped up Ground for a planting © Robin Stove

Sprayed Grass
Prepared site © Robin Stove

Step 3: Prepare your site for Plant Survival

Young native plants must compete with grass and weeds for moisture and nutrients. This is particularly important in Canterbury, where dry summers can put significant stress on establishing plants.

Before planting:

- Control grass and weeds in and around the planting area.
- Mark out your planting layout and check access and fencing.
- Loosen compacted soil where necessary, if possible.
- Ensure the soil has adequate moisture before planting.
- Some sites may require multiple rounds of weed control before planting.

Remember the 6 P's - Proper preparation prevents piss poor performance.

Investing time in preparation can improve the speed at which the roots can establish and develop. This establishment can increase the plants growing rate and reduce the risk of losing plants.

The more plants that survive and the faster that they grow, then the quicker they will shade out weeds, minimising your weed control efforts in the future.

Get a Deal on Plant Guards with us!

Starter Package Deal:
100
Plant Protection Guard Sets
$220
Incl. GST
12% OFF
Only $2.20 per set

Full Package Deal:
1000
Plant Protection Guard Sets
$2000
Incl. GST
20% OFF
Only $2.00 per set

Collect your plant guards when you collect your plants!
No seperate delivery arrangement needed!

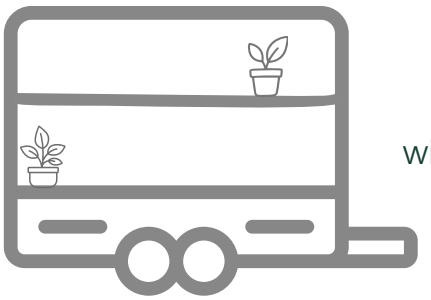
Plant Protection Guard Set includes:
1x Plant Guard (12.5cm), 4x Bamboo stakes (50cm) and
1x 100% Biodegradable Coir Mat (22x22cm)

Normally $2.50 per set GST inclusive

Terms and Conditions: Secure your deal on our plant protection guard sets by adding them to your order and paying your Plant Package deposit.



Combi Plant Guard © Jacque Bennett



Arrange collection of your package

Organise your package pick-up time
with us a few weeks ahead of collection from April - September.

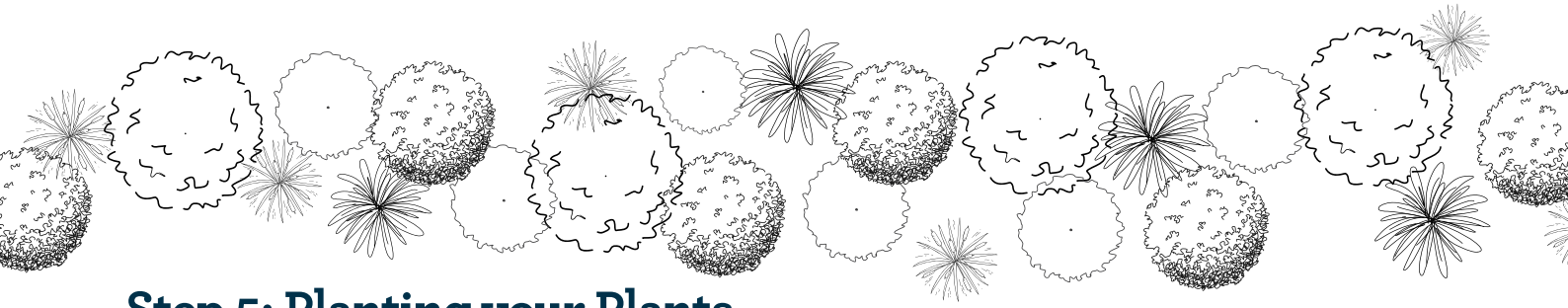
For Full Packages we recommend
a two-tiered caged trailer - *if possible*.
Some customers fasten a tarp around the outside of the
tailer to avoid wind damage to the plants in transit.

Step 4: Plant at the right time

In Canterbury, autumn, winter and early spring (Late April - early September)
are generally suitable planting periods, depending on local conditions.

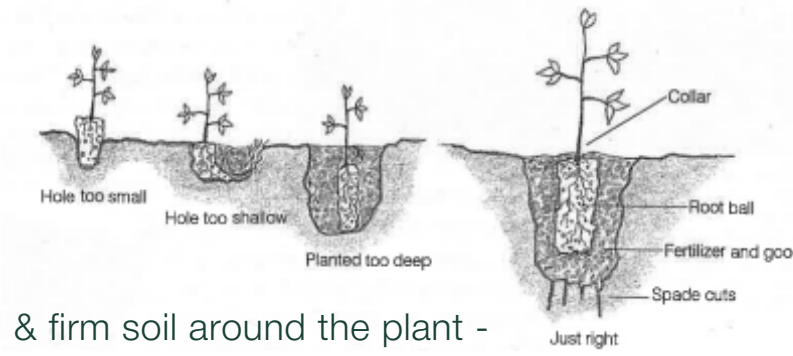
- Plant when soil moisture is adequate - *if possible.*
- Avoid hot, dry or very windy days.
- Keep plants in their pots cool and moist until planting.

Where possible, time planting to make the most of reliable soil moisture before summer.



Step 5: Planting your Plants

- Plan your layout ~ you can do this with an ecologist or a restoration team.
- Place your plants in their pots 1-1.5m spacing in your layout.
- Dig a hole wide enough for the roots to spread (*use a small auger if necessary*).
- Remove top layer of soil in your pots.
- Plant at the same depth as the
plant was growing in its pot.





Tree Planting © DOCImage

- Backfill with soil & firm soil around the plant -
without putting direct pressure on the roots.
- Smooth out soil so its level - in drier climates you can put a
slight indent, so water can accumulate in there.
- Pop on your plant protection guards.
- Water plants in - *if possible.*
- Mulch drier sites - *if possible.*

The first 2–3 years are critical, so plan for 2-4 rounds of care per year.

Need help with planting & maintenance? Ask us about a restoration teams in your area



Wildlands planting at ProjectTāwhaki planting day © Project Tāwhaki

Step 6: Site Maintenance

Establishment doesn't end when the plants go in the ground.
Ongoing care is essential to give your investment the best chance of success.

- **Weed control:** Keep grass and weeds under control, particularly during the first 2–3 years. Competition for water is a major risk during dry periods.
- **Stock exclusion:** Protect young plants from grazing and trampling. Plan fencing around the needs of your property and livestock.
- **Watering:** Water thoroughly after planting. Additional watering may be needed during prolonged dry conditions while plants establish.
- **Mulching:** Where practical, use suitable organic mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Keep mulch away from plant stems and trunks.
- **Monitoring and maintenance:** Check plant survival, manage weeds and replace failed plants where necessary. Factor ongoing maintenance into your restoration budget.

Final step:

Be proud of the work you have done for conservation, climate resilience and land restoration. Not just for yourself but for future generations of Kiwi's and our critters. You are the superhero!



Yarrs Flat Wildlife Management Reserve planting in 2019 © Gary Boyd



Yarrs Flat Wildlife Management Reserve planting in 2024 © Gary Boyd

Plan
Prepare
Restore

Right plant.
Right place.
Right purpose.



WETLAND & RIPARIAN

PROTECT WATERWAYS AND RIPARIAN MARGINS

WHY CHOOSE THIS PACKAGE?

Selected to help protect riparian margins, filter runoff and create valuable habitat around streams, wetlands and waterways. These species help bind banks together and provide shade for keeping water cool and encouraging aquatic life.

BANK STABILITY

Strong root systems bind soil and help stabilise stream banks, drains and vulnerable riparian margins.

FILTERS RUNOFF

Dense vegetation slows surface runoff and traps sediment and nutrients before they enter waterways.

RIGHT PLACE RIGHT PLANTS

These wetland warriors thrive in wet conditions and are selected with your drain maintenance in mind.

RIPARIAN HABITAT

Provides shade and shelter that prevent algal blooms and create healthy habitats for native fish, birds and beneficial insects to thrive.

Stabilise banks - Protect from pollution - Bring waterways to life

WATERWAYS, WETLAND & RIPARIAN PLANT PACKAGE:

Species Name	FULL PACKAGE	STARTER PACK
Ribbonwood - Mānatu - (*Plagianthus regius*)	112	16
Cabbage Tree - Tī kouka - (*Cordyline australis*)	128	16
Flax - Harakeke - (*Phormium tenax*)	160	20
Toetoe - (*Austroderia richardii*)	200	20
Cutty grass - Pukio - (*Carex secta*)	400	20
Total:	**1000**	**92**

Recommended species for $5 per plant

Karamū - *(Coprosma robusta)*

Swap sedge - Pūkio – *(Carex virgata)*

Mingimingi – Mikimiki - *(Coprosma propinqua)*

Māori sedge - Pūrei/Pūkio – *(Carex maorica)*

Koromiko – *(Hebe salicifolia)*

NZ Tea Tree - Mānuka – *(Leptospermum scoparium)*

New Zealand Myrtle - Rōhutu – *(Lophomyrtus obcordata)*

White pine – Kahikatea - *(Dacrycarpus dacrydioides)* $6.50 per plant







Left to Right
Wetland Habitat © Jacque Bennett
Native Mudfish (*Neochanna apoda)* ©DOC Stella McQueen
Kingfisher - Kōtare (*Halcyon sancta vagans)* © Andrew Walmsley



EROSION PROTECTION

HARDY NATIVES FOR EROSION-PRONE LAND

WHY CHOOSE THIS PACKAGE?

Selected for strong extensive root systems that help hold and bind soil, slow runoff and filter contaminants. These species have dense foliage to shelter soil, reducing erosion.

POWERFUL ROOTS

Extensive, robust, net-like root structures that hold and bind soil with microbial glues.

PROTECTIVE COVER

Dense foliage slows the velocity of rainfall, runoff and wind, protecting exposed soil from erosion.

TOUGH ESTABLISHERS

Hardy, fast-establishing natives that help stabilise vulnerable ground and kick-start soil health recovery.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

During runoff and storm events they trap sediment, helping keep soil and nutrients out of waterways.

Hold the soil - Slow the flow - Let nature take root

EROSION PLANT PACKAGE:

Species Name	FULL PACKAGE	STARTER PACK
Grasses/Sedges - Pūrei/Wī/Pātītī	200	0
Flax - Harakeke - (*Phormium tenax*)	200	0
Korimiko - (*Hebe/Veronica salicifiolia*)	120	0
Toetoe - (*Austroderia richardii*)	100	20
Kānuka - (*Kunzea robusta*)	96	16
Kōhūhū - (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*)	80	16
Ribbonwood - Mānatu - (*Plagianthus regius*)	80	16
Cabbage Tree - Tī kouka - (*Cordyline australis*)	64	16
Lacebark - Houhere - (*Hoheria angustifolia*)	64	16
Total:	**1004**	**100**

Recommended erosion protection species available for $5 per plant:

- **Cottonwood** Tauhinu – *(Ozothamnus leptophyllus)*
- **NZ Tea Tree** - Mānuka – (Leptospermum scoparium)
- **Lemonwood** - Tarata – *(Pittosporum eugenioides)*







Left to right:
Canterbury Mudfish Habitat © Sjaan Charteris
Carex secta and Toetoe (*Austroderia richardii*) roots © Jacque Bennett
NZ Wood Pigeon, Kererū (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) © Leon Everett



DRYLAND ECOSYSTEM

TOUGH NATIVES FOR DRY, EXPOSED SITES

WHY CHOOSE THIS PACKAGE?

Selected for hardiness so your plants thrive through challenging conditions; such as drought, wind, sun and frost. These plants host beneficial insects in an agricultural system throughout spring to autumn.

DROUGHT HARDY

Selected for dry, exposed landscapes where moisture can be limited.

TOUGH & RESILIENT

Plants suited to difficult growing conditions, helping to protect soil and improve land conditions over time.

BENEFICIAL BIODIVERSITY

Provides food and habitat for pollinators, native wildlife and beneficial insects that can support natural pest control.

LAND RESTORATION

Helps restore the distinctive character, diversity and resilience of Canterbury's unique dryland ecosystems.

Plant tough - Restore naturally - Champion our unique dryland ecosystem

DRYLAND PLANT PACKAGE:

Species Name	FULL PACKAGE	STARTER PACK
Kānuka – (*Kunzea serotina*)	344	16
Native broom – Mākaka – (*Carmichaelia australis)*	80	20
Shrubby tororaro – Tororaro – (*Muehlenbeckia astonii*)	100	20
Cottonwood - Tauhinu – (*Ozothamnus leptophyllus)*	100	20
Mingimingi - Mikimiki - (*Coprosma crassifolia/propinqua*)	336	16
Small-leaf tree daisy – (*Olearia adenocarpa)*	20	0
Porcupine bush – (*Melicytus alpinus*)	20	0
Total:	**1004**	**100**

Recommended species for $5 per plant:

Cabbage tree - Tī kōuka – *(Cordyline australis)*

Golden Ake Ake - Akiraho – *(Olearia paniculata)*

Canterburys Dryland Ecosystem

Canterbury's drylands are unique, diverse and remarkable ecosystems that have evolved to thrive in some of our toughest conditions. Yet only 3% of Canterbury's dryland ecosystems are protected. These special environments are among our most threatened natural habitats, making their restoration more important than ever.







Left to right:
Spotted Stink (*Oligosoma lineoocellatum*): © Sabine Bernet
Canterbury Dryland Ecosystem © Brad Smith (ECAN)
Copper butterflies (*Lycena feredayi)*© Vanessa Mander



FIRE SMART

FAST-GROWING NATIVES FOR FIRE-SMART PLANTING

Fast establishing species selected for lower-flammability characteristics, such as lighter fuel loads, lower amounts of volatile oils and high moisture content.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PACKAGE?

FIRE SMART

Lower-flammability species contain less volatile oils, waxes and resins, making for great green firebreaks.

FIRE RISK REDUCTION

Fast-establishing natives quickly grow protective vegetation suppressing weeds and unwanted flammable plants.

FUEL LOAD

Species that have minimal dead branches, leaves and twigs means less fuel to feed a fire.

LIVING BARRIER

Plants high in moisture content reduce the likelihood of fire spreading, creating buffers around productive land and high value assets.

Grow protection - Reduce fire risk - Restore biodiversity

This package is designed with large properties and farms in mind. We do not recommend planting near buildings or structures. Please follow FENZ guidelines.

CLICK HERE: Fire and Emergency New Zealand Website

FIRE SMART PLANT PACKAGE:

Species Name	FULL PACKAGE	STARTER PACK
Kāramu - (*Coprosma robusta*)	304	32
Lemonwood - Tarata - (*Pittosporum eugenioides*)	272	32
Lacebark - Houhere - (*Hoheria angustifolia*)	256	16
Korimiko - (*Hebe/Veronica salicifiolia*)	100	20
Five-Finger - Whauwhaupaku - (*Pseudopanax arboreus*)	48	0
Red Matipo - Māpou - (*Mysine australis*)	20	0
Total:	**1000**	**100**

Recommended species for $5 per plant:

- **Mingimingi** - Mikimiki - *(Coprosma propinqua)*
- **Ngaio** – *(Myoporum laetum)*
- **Ribbonwood** - Mānatu - *(Plagianthus regius)*
- **Wineberry** - Makomako - *(Aristotelia serrata)*
- **Kawakawa** – *(Piper excelsum)*

Recommended species for $6.50 per plant:

- **Lancewood** – Horoeka – *(Pseudopanax crassifolius)*
- **Kōwhai** – *(Sophora microphylla)*
- **Broadleaf** – Kāpuka – *(Griselinia littoralis)*

No plant is fireproof –
but some are less flamable than others.

The aim of this package is to create green firebreaks, **reducing the intensity of wildfire** and **giving emergency services** an improved **opportunity to suppress it.**

There are other ways that you can decrease the risk of fire damage to your property.

- Keeping grass short, watered and green during Summer.
- Reduce tinder by removing dead branches, leaves and twigs from plants and around them e.g leaf litter.
- If you are using mulch, avoid bark or other flammable mulches.

For more information - please visit the Fire and Emergency New Zealand website



Fire fighting by using helicopters, Waituna Wetlands Scientific Reserve, November 1998. © DOCImage



BANKS PENINSULA FOREST

SPECIES FOR RESILIENT, DIVERSE FOREST RESTORATION

WHY CHOOSE THIS PACKAGE?

Selected to rebuild forest structure over time, creating shelter, habitat and food for birds, lizards and insects. Encourage native regeneration and restore your land while bringing back biodiversity to Banks Peninsula.

FOREST FROM GROUND TO CANOPY

Early to mid-successional species create multiple vegetation layers, building the structure of a healthy forest.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Grow your forest to enhance your environment. Purify air and water while protecting the whenua from flood and erosion.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Long-lived, diverse forests store carbon, moderate extreme environmental conditions and build climate resilience.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

These native plant species provide habitat and sustenance for native birds, lizards, pollinators and beneficial insects.

Restore biodiversity - Protect the whenua - Grow resilient forests

BANKS PENINSULA FOREST PLANT PACKAGE:

Species Name	FULL PACKAGE	STARTER PACK
Lacebark - Houhere - (*Hoheria angustifolia*)	160	16
Kānuka - (*Kunzea robusta*)	192	16
Lemonwood - Tarata - *(Pittosporum eugenioides)*	112	20
Kōhūhū - (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*)	128	16
Shining Karamū - (*Coprosma lucida*)	128	16
Cabbage Tree - Tī kouka - (*Cordyline australis*)	112	16
Ribbonwood - Mānatu - (*Plagianthus regius*)	108	16
Lancewood - Horoeka - (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*)	64	0
Total:	**1004**	**96**

Recommended species for $5 per plant:

- **Karamū** - *(Coprosma robusta)*
- **Mingimingi** - Mikimiki – *(Coprosma propinqua/ crassifolia)*
- **5-Finger** - Whauwhaupaku – *(Pseudopanax arboreus)*
- **Wineberry -** Makomako – *(Aristotelia serrata)*
- **Ngaio –** *(Myoporum laetum)*
- **Mountain akeake** - Akeake *(Olearia avicenniifolia)*
- **Rōhutu** – *(Lophomyrtus obcordata)*
- **Heart-leaved kōhūhū** – (*Pittosporum obcordatum*)
- **Teucridium** – *(Teucridium parvifolium)*
- **Fragrant tree daisy -** *Shawia/Olearia fragrantissima*

Recommended species for $6.50 per plant:

- **Kōwahi** – *(Sophora microphylla)*
- **Lancewood** - Horoeka – *(Pseudopanax crassifolius)*
- **Tōtara** – *(Podocarpus totara)*
- **Matai** – *(Prumnopitys taxifolia)*
- **Broadleaf** – Kāpuka – *(Griselinia littoralis)*
- **Kaikōmako** – *(Pennantia corymbosa)*
- **Small-leaved milk tree** - Tūrepo - (*Streblus heterophyllus*)



Tuī © Scott Wilson



Bellbird © Dick Veitch



CANTERBURY PLAINS FOREST

HARDY PIONEERS FOR EXPOSED CONDITIONS

WHY CHOOSE THIS PACKAGE?

Selected for toughness, these plants establish rapidly, returning native vegetation to exposed places. Rebuild the structure and habitat of a Canterbury Plains Forest ecosystem on your land.

RAPID ESTABLISHMENT

Fast-growing pioneer species quickly establish a protective canopy on exposed sites.

FOREST FOUNDATIONS

Pioneer plants improve soil and site conditions, preparing the way for additional forest species to establish over time.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

These trees store carbon from our atmosphere which helps prevent the impacts of climate change.

BIODIVERSITY

Provides food and habitat for native birds, lizards and beneficial insects.

Establish fast- Create shelter - Bring forest back to the Plains

CANTERBURY PLAINS FOREST PLANT PACKAGE:

Species Name	FULL PACKAGE	STARTER PACK
Kōhūhū - (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*)	192	16
Lacebark - Houhere - (*Hoheria angustifolia*)	112	16
Kānuka - (*Kunzea robusta*)	192	16
Mingimingi - Mikimiki - (*Coprosma propinqua*)	208	16
Golden Akeake - Akiraho - (*Olearia paniculata*)	108	16
Cabbage Tree - Tī kouka - (*Cordyline australis*)	128	16
Total:	**1004**	**96**

Recommended species for $5 per plant:

Native broom - Makaka – *(Carmichaelia australis)*

Koromiko - *(Hebe salicifolia)*

Karamū – *(Coprosma robusta)*

Mānuka – *(Leptospermum scoparium)*

Lemonwood - Tarata – *(Pittosporum eugenioides)*







Left to right:
Jewelled Green Female Gecko (*Naultinus gemmeus*) © Rod Morris
Canterbury Knobbled Weevil (*Hadramphus tuberculatus*) © Warren Chinn
Pīwakawaka (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) © Bon Wilton Scott

CANTERBURY NATIVE PLANT PACKAGES

Ready to get planting?

Get in touch with our team to discuss your project and find the right plants for your site.

Give us a call

03 329 7846

Send us an email

Motukarara@doc.govt.nz

ORDERING & ENQUIRIES

Call us & complete our ‘Plant Package Customer Form’ so we can better understand your site, and provide tailored advice.

Scan to complete the form or click the link bellow

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/cTbRkp7z5F

Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm

Public visits by appointment only.

03 329 7846

