

# PLANTS FOR YOU

Information & Application Form for:

## WAITAKERE'S GREEN NETWORK COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME #1

### FREE PLANTS

Free native plants are offered to those who are interested in improving the health of the environment through planting ecosourced (locally sourced) natives and especially to those:

- replanting after getting rid of weeds
- conserving or extending their bush
- protecting their land (by covenanting)
- planting beside creeks, streams, estuaries or on banks, valleys, or ridges.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE PLANTS?

Everybody in Waitakere City is eligible for at least one plant.

### WHY IS COUNCIL MAKING THIS OFFER?

Because your planting efforts benefit the wider community and the Waitakere environment:

### HOW MANY PLANTS MIGHT I GET?

Those who are re-planting to stabilise a stream bank or to rehabilitate a significant area just cleared of weeds could receive up to 200 plants.

### MORE OF THIS TYPE OF GREENERY WILL HELP:

- make Waitakere an even more satisfying place to live
- reduce flooding and erosion
- maintain water quality in streams
- retain the character of Waitakere
- sustain wildlife
- reduce the weed problem



### DID YOU KNOW....

Through the Green Network Community Assistance Programme, Waitakere City Council also offers:

- subsidy for weed contractor work
- free weed spray
- bins for getting rid of our worst weeds
- fencing funds - for keeping stock out of streams and bush
- covenanting assistance - for legally protecting your property
- special bags for disposing of ginger plants and free disposal of ginger plants (if taken to The Refuse Transfer Station at The Concourse, Henderson).

Ph 839 0400 for more information on the Green Network Community Assistance Programme.



### YOU NEED TO KNOW...

- A Council person can provide skilled advice on native plants for your site and will assess how many plants Council can contribute.
- You can receive vouchers which are exchanged for plants at local nurseries.
- Plants given will be eco-sourced natives i.e. plants that come from the local area.
- Your new plants will be young and vulnerable. They will need some tender care, and initially some compost and watering.
- Many neighbours do share their plans and skills. Encouraging your neighbours will spread the benefit.



Waitakere City Council  
Te Tatao o Waitakere

YES

I would love some free plants!  
I would like one plant-call 839-0400  
or

I think my project will help the  
environment of my neighbourhood  
and could use more than one plant  
(fill in the slip below)

My name is: .....

I'm a Waitakere City resident. I live at  
address .....  
suburb .....

You can reach me at:

Ph # .....

Email address? .....

The area I wish to plant is .....metres  
by ..... metres in size

My property borders a

Stream? Coast? Wetland?

Bush area? None of the above?

(please circle the appropriate description)

Council provides plants that maximize  
the benefit of the Green Network by:

- stabilising bank/slope/ridge
- providing a 'nurse crop' for other plant species
- attracting birds
- replacing weeds
- extending bush
- improving water quality in streams
- adding green to my garden and therefore grow the Green Network

How will your new plants be used?

(tick the appropriate box(es) above)

These free plants will need help and  
care to become established, especially  
in their first year. I am pleased to  
take on this task.

Signed: .....

Send this slip to:  
The Community Projects Assistant,  
Landscape Development,  
Waitakere City Council,  
Private Bag 93 109 Henderson,  
Waitakere City



This is a Green Network Project

The Green Network joins natural areas  
to create a network of gardens, parks,  
streams, roadside plantings and  
coastlines. The Green Network gives you  
more places to play, connects you with  
the countryside, gives birds and other  
wildlife access to your neighbourhood  
and encourages them to make their  
home here in Waitakere.



### PLANTING TIPS

- Plant in autumn or spring or on cloudy or cool days.  
(if you are planting in spring make sure you water your new trees and shrubs well in summer).
- Imitate nature - cluster plants together e.g. manatu, cabbage tree and ramarama grow well together as natural neighbours
- Keep leaves and mulch on the ground. They are great for the plants, the soil and the wildlife.
- Look at the site and plant what would naturally grow there, for example put ferns in damp & shady sites.
- Use NZ natives and better still ones grown from seed taken from your area (eco-sourced). This gives you a better survival rate as these plants are used to local conditions.
- Plants help soak up water so plant in boggy bits around your property - this will reduce ponding, pooling and flooding.
- Planting densely will keep the weeds at bay.
- Native plants give local wildlife a food source and a home. If you want birdsong, plant trees and shrubs which have berries, seeds and nectar that lure native birds e.g. flax, kowhai, karaka, pigeonwood, titoki, nikau, astelia, ramarama, mamangi and flax to name a few.
- If planting anew use hardy, quick growing species to start off with e.g. grasses, flax, toetoe, manuka, kanuka, karamu and cabbage trees.

### HOW TO PLANT

1. Clear all weeds from your planting site
2. Dig a hole deeper and larger than the root ball of your plant
3. Put compost in the hole
4. Place the plant in the hole and fill the hole with soil to the height shown below. Press gently around the plant
5. Then water - a good soak will help the plant to get established.
6. Put mulch - compost and/or bark chips around but not touching the plant stem.

