



PLANTS FOR YOU

FREE
PLANTS

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 worth of 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



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.



DID YOU KNOW....

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

- subsidy for weed contractor work
- herbicide for large scale ginger control
- 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.

YES

I would love some free plants!

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 # Day

Mobile

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

My property borders a

(please circle the appropriate description)

Stream? Coast? Wetland?

Bush area? None of the above?

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

How will your new plants be used?

(tick the appropriate box(es) below)

- 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

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 :
Parks Community Assistance Coordinator,
Parks Planning,
Waitakere City Council,
Private Bag 93 109 Henderson,
Waitakere City



PLANTING TIPS



- Plant in autumn or spring 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. ribbonwood, 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. Make sure that weeds such as jasmine, tradescantia and ginger are completely removed before planting.
- 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.

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.

