

ECOSOURCING

GROWING WAITAKERE'S GREEN NETWORK

WHAT IS ECOSOURCING? SOME EXPLANATIONS

- "Using plants grown from local seed"
- "Sourcing native plants from local seed for local use"
- "Connecting the source with the destination"
- "Horticultural practices that recognise and include the diversity of local populations during the production and sale of plants"
- "Preserving ecological history"
- "Maintaining local biodiversity"

WHY ECOSOURCE?

Plants sourced from Waitakere City are better adapted to conditions here, are more likely to survive and will help to preserve the distinctiveness of plants from this region. Reductions to the diversity of life is becoming a world wide concern. By ecosourcing plants you can help.

WHERE SHOULD WE ECO-SOURCE?

Eco-sourced plants will be of benefit in any area, including backyards.

They are particularly important in areas:

- of outstanding vegetation (e.g. Green Bay cliffs and around Moire Park, Massey);
- bordering streams;
- close to "wild populations" (e.g. bush properties like those on Scenic Drive and in Titirangi).

ECOSOURCING THE WAITAKERE WAY

Waitakere City Council is promoting eco-sourcing to improve the quality and quantity of native vegetation and protect the distinctiveness of plants and ecosystems in the City.

Ecosourcing also improves the habitats of native wildlife, which feed from our native trees, bushes and grass.

The principle - select plants grown from seeds collected as close as possible to where you plan to plant. As a minimum standard, use seeds or plants from within the Auckland area.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Many local nurseries sell plants originating from Northland, Bay of Plenty, Rotorua, Canterbury or Southland, because that is where the major seed suppliers are based. Since we have a premier forest park on our doorstep and access to superb local plant species through the Auckland Regional Council, not using these sources represents a lost opportunity to help maintain the natural health of our city.

Using ecosourced stock would also reduce handling and transport costs and help support local nurseries and related businesses.



DID YOU KNOW

- Waitakere City Council has coordinated the development of a draft Ecosourcing Code of Practice. To obtain a copy, phone the Council's 24-hr Customer Service Line on 839-0400.
- The Council has a range of planting guides that recommend good species to grow in your area - the *Waitakere Gardening Guide* and the *Native to the West Guide to Restoring the Nature of Waitakere*. Phone 839-0400 to request copies.
- The Council specifies that ecosourced plants be used as part of resource consent conditions to ensure the character of an area is retained. It also requires contractors to use eco-sourced species for park and esplanade plantings.



DID YOU KNOW

- The Auckland Regional Council has guidelines for seed collection. To obtain a copy, phone Parkline on 303-1530 or the Arataki Visitor Centre on 817-4993.
- The ARC can run workshops on Do-It-Yourself eco-sourcing and seed collection if there is demand. To express your interest ring the Botanic Garden on 267-1454.
- The Department of Conservation promotes eco-sourcing and has its own nurseries for major revegetation projects.
- Garden centres or nurseries that currently stock eco-sourced plants and use the label include:
 - Palmers Glen Eden
 - Henderson Mitre 10
 - Palmers Hobsonville
 - Westgate Mitre 10
 - Naturally Native (wholesale supply)
 - Oratia Native Plant Nursery (retail and wholesale supply)
 - Techscape Nursery (wholesale)
 - Frontier Natives
- The Botanic Garden in Manukau is a collection house for data on ecosourcing.



WILD SOURCING

Ecosourcing includes collecting stock from "wild sources" - the natural environment the plant originally grew in.

WHY SEEDS AND NOT CUTTINGS?

Eco-sourcing includes collecting seed (in preference to cuttings) as a way of ensuring that naturally-occurring diversity within each species is maintained as much as possible. Cloning or genetic manipulation through selection is not part of ecosourcing practice.

ANNUAL COLLECTIONS

Ecosourcing includes collecting new seed on a regular (annual) basis. Don't use stored seeds over several years, except in unusual circumstances, such as in bad seed years.

EXEMPT?

Some plants were purposely planted by Maori, and later by Europeans, in places they would not occur naturally. Trees like karaka, for example, were planted by Maori to attract birds to dwelling sites, for food, or for symbolic reasons. Ecosourcing is not relevant to plants such as karaka and flax, where they have been moved from their natural environments.

LOOK FOR THE 'ECOSOURCED' LABEL

Waitakere has its own "Ecosourced" label (pictured below) that appears on ecosourced plants sold at participating outlets (see list opposite), and on those used for Green Network planting projects and events. When you go to buy plants always check for the ecosourced label which states where the seeds were collected. Try to choose plants that came from an area as close as possible to where you are planting them.

ISSUES

Debate still continues with some aspects of ecosourcing. If you have comments or suggestions or would like to talk to Council about eco-sourcing labels for the plants you sell please write to: Parks Community Assistance Coordinator
Waitakere City Council
Private Bag 93 109
Henderson



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 and encourages birds and other wildlife to make their home here in Waitakere.