

Good Plants to Grow

Plants suitable to this area are the plants that originally lived here. Here are some of them:

Ferns

Ferns can grow almost anywhere however we notice them most in shady and wet places, usually under decks and under other plants. In these sort of places plant maiden hair fern, hen & chicken fern and kio kio.

Ground Cover

Use rengarenga lily, turutu, and the petite panakenake.

Shrubs

Cluster these shrubs together in patches and their survival rate will improve: mountain flax, flax, mingimingi, kirks daisy, mahoe, hangehange, karamu, puka (*Grisilena lucida* only).

Small trees

Small trees which grow well here are: cabbage tree, ponga, mahoe, mapou, nikau, five finger, taraire, pigeonwood, kanuka, & lacebark.

Feature trees

These have distinctive shape, colour and texture and as they grow to significant sizes can be seen from some distance. Plant now to benefit your children or children's children. Try: kauri, karaka, kowhai, kahikatea, rimu, tanekaha, rewarewa, and puriri. Remember they grow large so don't plant them too close to buildings or drains.

For bare and barren areas

Mahoe, mapou, ponga, karamu and manuka or kanuka are good and hardy and will 'pioneer' in open areas.

Streamside Plants

On the water's edge plant: *Carex* grasses, ferns, rushes. Around and beyond these plant flax, toetoe, mingimingi, cabbage trees, karamu, ponga, koromiko and kanuka.

Council can help by providing eco-sourced plants for you to use in vulnerable areas like stream banks. Ph 839 0400 for more information.

Forward Thinking

If you'd like your patch of native bush preserved consider covenanting

Free and useful advice & information

- *The Green Network flyer* (WCC)
- *Sliding Away - flyer on preventing erosion*
- *Streamside Planting*
- *Waitakere's Worst Weeds ID sheet*
- *Eco-sourcing Flyer*
- *District Plan Guidelines*
- *Waitakere's Native Plant fruits and flowers poster*
- *A Guide to Planting and Restoring the Nature of Waitakere City*
- *The Good Plant Guide* (ARC)
- *Weed Guide* (ARC)

Interested in the environment you live in?

So are these groups. If you would like to get involved in your area contact them

- Waitakere Ranges Protection Society
- Keep Waitakere Beautiful
- Waitakere River Restoration Project
- The WeedFree Waitakere Trust

For contact details Ph 839 0400

Other Brochures in this series

- Living in the Waitakere Bush
- Living by the Waitemata Harbour
- Living on Waitakere's West Coast
- The Waitakere Gardening Guide



This is a Green Network Project

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

Living in the Waitakere Foothills



Oratia, Waiatarua, Bethells (inner valley),
Waitakere Valley, Swanson, Ranui



WAITAKERE'S WATER SHED

Once completely clothed in forest, the foothills are now a mosaic of pasture, vines, orchards, and bush with homes scattered amongst them.

The foothills of the Waitakeres soak up a good deal of water from the forest above. This is a bonus if you can 'harvest' it.

On the ridges you can still sometimes find kauri, tanekaha, and rimu while puriri, rata, rimu, kahakitea and kohekohe grow on the valley sides. Kowhai brighten up the streamsides and rocky outcrops.

Prize tree of the area is the puriri - a voluminous tree with dark pink flowers and purple berries which attract the plump pigeon (kereru).

Local Highlights

Oratia

A good place to find and grow tanekaha, kowhai, and nikau

Swanson

Puriri, karaka, kowhai, tawa are natives to this area. Swanson also has some mature kauri.

In Character

The foothills - are an idyllic place to live - they are both scenic and productive.

This zone is an important buffer zone between the wilderness above and the urban area below.

Waitakere City Council is trying to retain the character of this area by constraining development here.



AROUND THE HOUSE

Doing the Drive

Design your driveway so the water doesn't run off straight down hill. Runoff can be slowed and dissipated by having driveways which wind ... like a river. Gravel driveways are probably best for this area.

Wayward Weeds

Attack the weeds around the house so they go no further. Ginger, wandering jew and selaginella are the worst weeds in this area. Council offers assistance to those clearing (invasive) weeds on their properties. For information on access to free

- Weedbins
- Weedbags (only for ginger)
- Plants to replace weed infested areas and
- Rebates on weed control contractors

Phone 839 0400

Climbers and vines

Climbers are great for 'disguising' fences, water tanks or carports or for decorating pergolas and decks. Clematis, rata, supplejack and kohia (passion vine) work well in these places.

And the houses on the hill stood still

The easy answer to reducing flooding around your home is to leave as much land as possible planted with trees and shrubs (for this reason Council limits vegetation clearing on building sites).

Shelter belts

Rows of trees or even shrubs enhance your property, break the wind and they also provide privacy. Flax and karamu make good hedges.

Making the most of it

Rain is plentiful here - store it in tanks to cover the leaner times. Use tank supplies for watering stock and to supplement irrigation.



AROUND THE FARM

Plant across the slope - or water runs at a rapid rate downhill washing your topsoil with it.

Connect your plantings - if you can, with the neighbours above and below and beside you. This helps create homes for native birds, most of which are loathe to cross open spaces.

Solving erosion - Plant strategically. Focus on stream banks and vulnerable areas like gullies and steep slopes. See over for suitable species. Streamsides are best planted, or left in long grass - don't graze.

Protect bush remnants - natives are adapted to the conditions here; they feed and house native wildlife and reduce flooding and erosion. Collect seeds from your own trees and grow seedlings - it's a cheap and easy way to extend your bush.

Avoid spraying if you can or try less toxic versions on the weeds. Leave the gorse - it is a nitrogen fixer, a nursery for natives and will later die back.

Animal Welfare - fence animals out and away from streams and bush patches. Their 'pugging' causes damage to the soil and the water. Council helps fund fencing to preserve bush and improve the water quality in our streams. Stock, like us, need shade and shelter, so cluster some shrubs and trees in open paddocks and along fencelines.

Threats - possums are a problem here. Controlling them in this area helps stop their spread. Contact Auckland Regional Council for good advice and assistance.