



Main South Road, Templeton, Christchurch 8441
P: 03 347 9221 or 0800 800 352 | Fax: 347 9223
info@southernwoods.co.nz | www.southernwoods.co.nz

Info 29 – Native Plants suitable for Dry Soils and Low Rainfall

The following Info Sheet is a great starting point for planting in places with dry soils, low rainfall, cold winters and dry summers (ie Rolleston).

Groundcovers

Acaena purpurea - Purple low growing ground cover 10cm height x 1m width.

Apodasmia similis - (OiOi). Wetland Reed to 1m x 1m.

Clematis afoliata - Leafless clematis with fragrant lime-green flowers from Marlborough and Canterbury grassland, scrubland and rocky areas.

Grasses

Austroderia richardii - South Island Toe Toe to 2m.

Carex buchananii - Upright brown grass. 80cm high x 60cm wide.

Carex comans 'Bronze' - Small grass. 40cm x 40cm.

Carex dipsacea - Arching mountain tussock. 80cm x 80cm.

Carex flagellifera - Brown grass with attractive seedheads. 60cm x 60cm.

Carex testacea - Orange sedge. 60cm high x 90cm wide.

Shrubs

Brachyglottis greyii – (Resin Bush). Spreading shrub, yellow daisy flowers. 1m height x 1.2m wide.

Carmichaelia spp., *appressa*, *australis*, *glabrescens*, *kirkii*, *muritai*, *odorata*, *petriei* - (Broom varieties). Varying heights (refer to catalogue).

Coprosma acerosa - Compact shrub with orange tangled branches. Hardy and evergreen. 1.5m high x 1.5m wide.

Coprosma acerosa 'Hawera' – Ground-hugging hardy evergreen shrub. 30cm high x 1.2m wide.

Coprosma 'Copper Shine' - Small shiny copper to green leaves. Great for hedges or stand alone . 2.5m high x 2.5m wide.

Coprosma crassifolia - Small glossy dark-green leaves. Attracts birds, really tough in the dry. 3m high x 2m wide.

Coprosma propinqua - Small tough bushy tree. Good pigeon food, hardy. 3m+ high x 2.5m wide.

Coprosma rotundifolia - Attractive upright shrub. Attractive foliage. 4m high x 3m wide.

Coprosma rugosa - Orange-brown divaricating foliage, blue berries, really tough in the dry. 2m x 2m.

Coprosma virescens - Semi-upright shrub with thin, green leaves. Nice informal hedge. 4m high x 1.5m wide.

Corokia 'Bronze King' - Handsome dark green-bronze foliage and yellow flowers. Nice hedge or shrub. 2.5m high x 2m wide.

Corokia buddleioides - Handsome multi-stemmed shrub, especially when planted amongst others. Frost tender when young*.

Corokia 'Geenty's Green' - Olive green leaves. Hardy. Yellow flowers and red berries. 1.5m x 1.5m.

Corokia cotoneaster - Great for hedging, fine silver foliage. Very hardy to drought. 3m high x 2m wide.

Corokia 'Red Wonder' – Fast-growing shrub, hardy to drought and cold. 3m high x 2m wide.

Corokia 'Yellow Wonder' - More vigorous than C. 'Red Wonder', with larger leaves. Hardy to drought & cold. 3m high x 2m wide.

Dodonaea viscosa – (Ake Ake). Vigorous small tree, needs well-drained soils, frost tender when young*. 7m high x 2.5m wide.

Dodonaea viscosa purpurea – (Purple Ake Ake). Rich purple-red foliage, excellent hedge. Frost tender when young.* 6m high x 2.5m wide.

Festuca actae – (Banks Peninsula Blue Fescue). Small tussock with blue/green foliage. Will tolerate full sun but best in light shade. 0.3m x 0.3m.

Fuchsia procumbens – (Creeping Fuchsia). Attractive ground cover, protect from frost*. 0.2 high x 1.5 wide.

Haloragis erecta 'Purpurea' - Perennial with purple foliage. Keep trimmed twice a year. Very hardy. 1m x 1m.

Hebe albicans - Grey/blue foliage. Evergreen and hardy. 60cm high x 90cm wide.

Hebe decumbens – A hebe from inland Marlborough with green leaves showing red edges. Hardy. 40cm high x 1m wide.

Hebe gracillima - Compact shrub with white flowers. Frost hardy and dry tolerant. 1.2m high x 1m wide.

Hebe parviflora – From inland Nelson. White/violet flowers. 2m high x 2m wide.

Hebe strictissima - Perfect for the Canterbury dry. Prolific white flowers. 2m x 2m.

Hebe sutherlandii - A neat, low-growing compact shrub with grey/blue leaves and white flowers. 50cm high x 60cm wide.

Hebe topiaria - Compact shrub with grey/blue leaves and white flowers. Evergreen and hardy. 1m x 1m.

Hebe 'Wiri Mist' - Attractive bush with grey-green foliage. Has a flat-topped habit with white flowers. 60cm wide x 1m high.

Libertia ixoides - Native Iris with white flowers. Tolerates full sun-shade, wind and frost. 0.3m high x 1m wide.

Lophomyrtus obcordata - Fine foliage, upright form. Great for hedging with cream flowers. Hardy. 5m high x 2.5m wide.

Melicytus alpinus - Dense, flattened shrub resembling a porcupine. Found on very light dry soils. Evergreen and hardy. 0.8m high x 1.2m wide.

Melicytus obovatus – (Chatham Island Mahoe). Upright spreading shrub. Very hardy. 1m high x 1.5m wide.

Muehlenbeckia astonii - Divaricating plant that tolerates dry and wind. Insects love it. Hardy. 2m high x 1.5m wide.

Muehlenbeckia axillaris - Dense groundcover with wiry stems. Prefers full sun. Small cream flowers. 0.2m high x 1m wide.

Muehlenbeckia complexa - Twining vine to climb over any support. Full sun/part shade. Attracts insects and lizards. Hardy. 2m high x 3m wide.

Myrsine divaricata - Bushy weeping shrub with tiny flowers, yellow to red petals. Hardy. 3m high x 2m wide.

Nothofagus solandri – (Black Beech). Tall, attractive tree. Generally hardier than other beeches. 20m high x 5m wide.

Olearia adenocarpa - Rare sprawling bush found on old rocky river channels. Very hardy. 1.2m high x 2m wide.

Olearia avicenniaefolia – (Mountain Ake Ake). Sweet showy flowers, nectar and insects for birds. Flowers late summer. Hardy. 4m high x 3m wide.

Olearia lineata 'Dartonii' – (Twiggy Tree Daisy). Fragrant white flowers, trims well. Tolerant of dry, cold and wind. 5m high x 3m wide.

Olearia nummularifolia - Compact multi-branched box-like shrub with yellow-green leaves. Hardy. 3m high x 2m wide.

Olearia x oleifolia 'Oleifolia' - Compact shrub, good in dry and shade. Olive-like foliage, masses of white flowers. Originates from the Rangitata Gorge. Evergreen and hardy. 2m x 2m.

Olearia paniculata - Useful fast-growing hedge, dry, tolerates cold & exposure. Fragrant white flowers. 4m high x 2.5m wide.

Olearia solandri – (Coastal Shrub Daisy). Good fast-growing shelter and hedging plant for the dry. Cold hardy. 4m high x 2m wide.

Olearia virgata – Upright rounded shrub with moderately fragrant white flowers. Hardy. 5m x 5m.

Pachystegia insignis – (Marlborough Rock Daisy). Small, compact and good for dry, prefers sun. 1m x 1m.

Phormium cookianum – (Mountain Flax). Lush green leaves. Flowers provide fruit and nectar for birds. Hardy. 1.5m x 1.5m.

Phormium cookianum 'Emerald Green' - Tough and drought tolerant flax. 0.8m x 0.8m.

Phormium cookianum 'Purpureum' - Great colour contrast to the above. Hardy. 1.2 high x 1.5m wide.

Pimelia prostrata 'Blue Peter' - Compact fast-growing groundcover with blueish foliage. Great in a mass planting. Hardy. 0.1m high x 1.2m wide.

Pittosporum 'Marjorie Channon' – Slow-growing compact shrub with green/cream margins. Hardy. 3m high x 2m wide.

Pittosporum 'Stephens Island' - Attractive dark green foliage with silver edge. Hardy. 4m high x 3m wide.

Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Hawea' - More compact and slower-growing than most other *Pittosporum* varieties. Originates from sub-alpine zone, extremely hardy. 4m high x 3m wide.

Pittosporum 'Waimea' - Compact bush with wavy rich green foliage. Hardy. 2.5m x 2.5m.

Pittosporum 'Wrinkled Blue' - Silver green wrinkled leaf. Excellent hedging. 3m high x 2.5m wide.

Plagianthus divaricatus - Dense shrub with rounded habit. Tolerant of wet and dry. Can be hedged. 2m x 2m.

Sophora molloyii 'Dragons Gold' - Low-growing kowhai with prolific flowers in winter. Growth rate is faster than other kowhai. Hardy. 3m high x 2.5m wide.

Sophora prostrata – (Dwarf kowhai). Tangled wiry shrub tolerant of exposed cold dry sites (Note: *Canterbury Plains form* grows to 2.5m x 2.5m, *North Canterbury form* 1m x 1m).

Teucrium parvifolium - Small compact green-leafed shrub with orange branches, masses of fuchsia flowers in summer. Tolerates poor dry soils. Best if given a light trim once a year. Hardy. 2m x 2m.

Trees

Coprosma Robusta - Tough bushy tree. Good bird food. Hardy. Female plant will have a mass of orange berries. 5m high x 4m wide.

Kunzea ericoides – (Kanuka). Showy white flowers, soft foliage, coloniser of dry ground. Moderately frost tolerant. 10m high x 4m wide.

Pittosporum ralphii - Rounded habit, dark green leaves. Prefers shade to full sun. Hardy. 5m high x 3m wide.

Pittosporum tenuifolium - Excellent revegetation species. Tolerates wind and drought. 6m high x 3m wide.

Plagianthus regius – (Ribbonwood). Wind resistant and very fast growing. Good shelter/erosion control. 12m high x 3m wide.

Podocarpus hallii – (Hall's Totara). Occurs at higher altitudes, good for hedging or as a specimen tree. 12m high x 7m wide.

Podocarpus totara - Slow but attractive timber tree. Will grow in wide range of sites. Prickly leaves deter sheep & hares. 15m high x 8m wide.

Sophora longicarinata - Small graceful weeping tree, semi-deciduous and hardy. Nice dappled shade. 5m high x 4m wide.

Sophora microphylla – (South Island Kowhai). Tangled juvenile tree with nectar for birds/bees. Hardy to cold and wind and short periods of wet soils. Lightly pruning side branches and tying the main leader to a stake will help give the tree good form. Flowers mid-August until late September. 5m high x 4m wide.

Sophora tetraptera – (North Island Kowhai). Doesn't have a juvenile form. Faster growing than *S. microphylla*. Flowers from September to November. 6m high x 4m wide.

***Notes on frost tender plants:** Liquid Seaweed is a great option for frost protection, to harden plants before winter, as an organic liquid plant tonic anytime.