



# How to Use the QuickFind Keys

Plant name	Comments	Source
<b>Aristotelia serrata</b> <b>Makomako</b> <b>Wineberry</b>	Delicate leaves often red beneath. Can lose its leaves in cold winters. Needs space. To attract birds, plant both male and female trees for fruit (dark red to black in late summer). Pink flowers in late spring. Useful as a nurse plant, giving light shade. Very fast but short-lived. Eaten by possums.	 

## Plant name


Some plants have several common names and some have none, making it impossible to arrange the plants by common names alone. Instead, they are arranged by botanical name (the name used in nurseries and garden centres). The Māori name (where known\*) appears in bold, followed by the common European one. If you are looking for a plant by common name, go to the alphabetical listing on page 64.


## Comments column


Plant descriptions and growing hints. If these notes say that only female plants bear fruit, it means that you will also need a male plant to ensure fertilisation to get this fruit! 'Nurse plant' means that it can protect other, less hardy plants. 'Fire resistant' means it is relatively so. Where distributions are not given here, the plant is found throughout most of New Zealand. If the seed requires any special treatment to ensure a good rate of germination, this is also stated here.

## Source

**\$ Widely available from garden centres.** (Consult your local *Yellow Pages*.)

 **From seed** (or spores, if it is a fern). If possible, collect fresh seed from strong, healthy, local, wild plants, for such seed is more likely to produce plants suited to local conditions. Most are collected in summer or autumn, taking a few months to germinate. Some take longer. For fern growing, see page 40.

 **From cuttings.** Take these from a range of healthy, local, wild plants (unless you want a cultivated variety). This helps maintain genetic diversity. With separate sexed plants (e.g. *Coprosma*), make sure you have both male and female plants (if you want fruit). Most native trees and shrubs are propagated from semi-hardwood cuttings, which are taken from stems that are hard to snap, being between the soft and woody stages of growth. In some cases, a rooting hormone may help.

 **By dividing up existing garden plants.** Useful for groundcover plants that form clumps, have rhizomes, or sprawl along the ground, rooting as they go. Best done in spring or autumn.












\* It is often said that many Māori plant names were made up to please curious Pākehā, so it is interesting to learn of Baron Huegal's test in 1834. He made a collection of 300 plants and asked one Māori man to name them. Though many of the plants were small and insignificant, he named each one. The following evening another man was invited; he too named all 300. All but one plant received the same name as had been given the night before.

*CHOWE, A. 1991, The QuickFind guide to growing native plants. Published by Penguin Books, Auckland.*









## QUICKFIND KEY

You need

The Plant's Needs

Shape and size in cultivation	Uses	Sun	Soil	Water	Frost	Wind
 6m	  	 		 		

## Uses

-  has attractive flowers, with colours as shown
-  attracts birds to feed on the fruit, leaves or nectar
-  suitable for growing as a pot plant, in tubs or other containers
-  suitable for planting as a hedge — try mixing species for natural effect
-  suitable for planting in a rock garden
-  planted for erosion control (selecting ones native to your area)
-  fast-growing (see pages 8 and 12 for growth rates of trees)
-  possum hardy (indicating that the plant is rarely eaten by possums)


## Sun

-  tolerates or prefers full sun
-  prefers dappled shade
-  tolerates or prefers full shade




## Soil

-  prefers rich soil (dark and crumbly)
-  tolerates poor soil (such as clay, sand or pumice)
-  requires good drainage to thrive

## Water

-  tolerates or prefers dry soil
-  prefers a moist soil
-  tolerates or prefers wet soil

## Frost





















































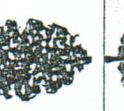











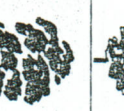













































-  frost hardy (suited to growing in the cooler frost-prone regions)
-  half hardy (needs some protection, particularly when young)
-  frost sensitive (suited only to the warmer, northern regions)

## Wind

-  tolerates wind
-  tolerates coastal wind
-  requires shelter



# Native Trees

Plant name	Comments	Source	Shape and size in cultivation	Uses	Sun	Soil	Water	Frost	Wind
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i> <b>Kānuka</b>	Graceful, soft young growth. The many fragrant white flowers (summer) are much smaller than mānuka flowers. Other smaller forms are available. Tolerates drought and frost. Not subject to mānuka blight, and rarely eaten by deer. Nurse plant (if well-spaced). Life-span of more than 100 years.	 	 7m	   	 				
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i> <b>Pukatea</b>	Attractive coarsely-toothed, glossy leaves. Mature trees with distinctive buttressed trunk. Branchlets square-angled. Slow. Needs deep soil and a damp site, even growing on the water's edge or in swamps. Possum hardy and fire resistant. Naturally found north of about Kaitiaki.	 	 15m+	   	 				
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> <b>Mānuka</b>	Attractive for its many white flowers in late spring. Leaves more prickly-tipped than kānuka. Very hardy and versatile nurse plant (if well-spaced), tolerating a very wide range of soils, including poor and acidic ones or sand. Dwarf and prostrate forms available with flowers double, red or pink. p.13	 	 4m	   	 				
<i>Libocedrus plumosa</i> <b>Kawaka</b>	Neat conical form with feathery, fern-like leaves and stringy bark, giving it the look of the conifers more familiar overseas. Plant as a specimen tree. Tolerates dry but prefers moist to wet soil. Slow enough to suit a medium-sized garden. Naturally found north of about Nelson, but not common.	 	 10m+	 	 				
<i>Melicope ternata</i> <b>Wharangi</b>	Leaves glossy, a striking shade of green like Granny Smith apples, with sweet smell when crushed. Seeds eaten by birds. Flowers inconspicuous. Slightly frost tender. Tends to form a shrub when grown in the open. Eaten by cattle but not usually by possums. Found naturally north of about Kaitiaki.	 	 5m	  	 				
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> <b>Māhoe</b>	Leaves pale; bark smooth with white patches. Branchlets covered in tiny greenish, fragrant flowers in early summer. Birds eat the small purple berries (on female trees) in late summer. Fast grower yet can live for over 80 years. Shade tree. Fire resistant. Eaten by stock and possums. Nurse tree.	 	 5m	   	 				
<i>Meryta sinclairii</i> <b>Puka</b>	Huge, leathery, tropical-looking leaves. Effective alone or in groups, looking good from above. Though tolerating wind, does best in deep soil with shelter but OK in sand. Fruit eaten by kereru in summer. Fallen leaves can be a nuisance. Native to the Three Kings and Hen & Chickens Islands.	 	 5m	 	 				
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> <b>Pōhutukawa</b>	Large red flowers attract bellbird and tūi at Christmas. Shade tree, prunes well. Frost tender when young. Lives 300-800 years, flowering at 5-7 years. Eaten by possums. OK in sand. Occurs north of Napier, mostly coastal, but will grow in Dunedin. (Small-leaved & white-flowered species available.) p.13	 	 10m	   					
<i>Metrosideros robusta</i> <b>Rātā</b>	Similar to pōhutukawa, but more erect and slower growing, harder to frost but not reaching flowering age until very much later. Flowers in December. Eaten by possums. Found in forests north of about Hokitika, where wild trees usually start life as a vine in the fork of another tree.	 	 10m	  	 				

To find a plant by its common name, go to page 64

Key to symbols on cover flap