

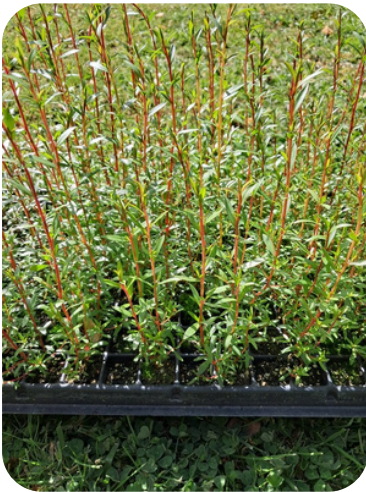
Mānuka Tea tree

Leptospermum scoparium



How to recognise the seedling?

Small pointy leaves often sharper to the touch than kānuka (mānuka mean/kānuka kind).



IDENTIFICATION:

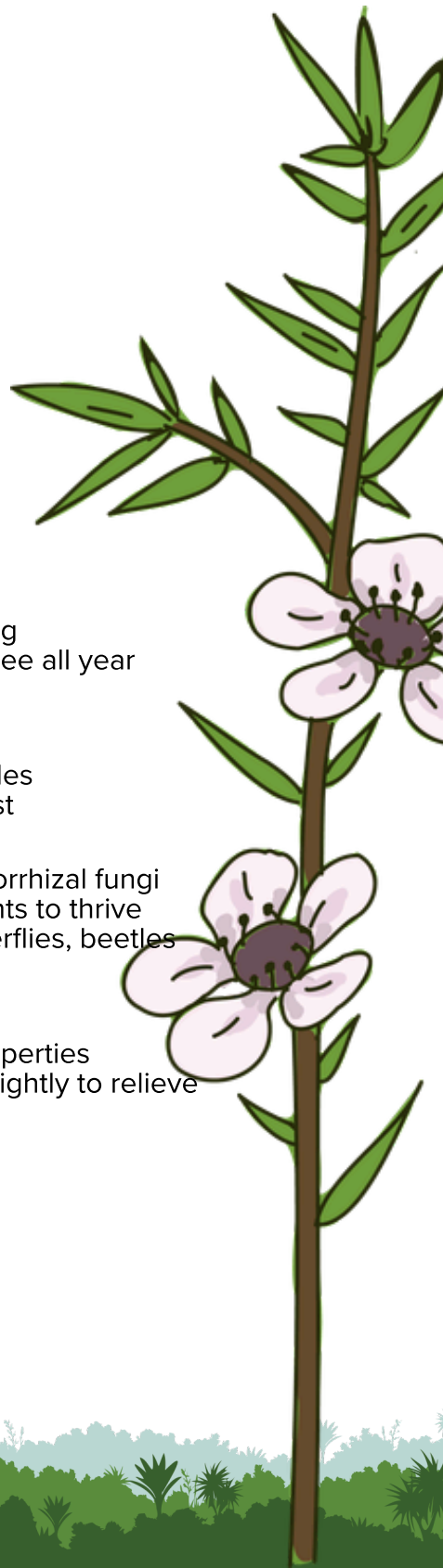
- Form:** Woody small tree with central trunk up to 8m
- Features:** Small 1cm long pointy leaves, prickly to touch
Single white 5 petalled flowers with dark centre in spring
Grey-brown round, bowl shaped capsules stay on the tree all year
Flaky, brown bark
- Where to plant:** Tolerates a range of habitats from wetlands to dry hillsides
Tolerant of drought, waterlogging, strong winds and frost
- Why plant:** Very hardy, fast growing pioneer plant, introduces mycorrhizal fungi to the soil which sets up conditions for other native plants to thrive
Provides food (pollen and nectar) for bees, moths, butterflies, beetles and geckos and shelter and habitat for wildlife
- Did you know?** Mānuka honey and oil has antibacterial and healing properties
Seed capsules can be held in the mouth and chewed slightly to relieve nausea and travel sickness

SCHOOL CARE:

Tips of mānuka can be trimmed/ pinched out to promote strong sturdy growth

LOOK OUT FOR:

Myrtle Rust - refer to our website for more information
Leaf roller caterpillars - if their webbing can be seen stitching leaves together these can be removed



Kānuka

Kunzea robusta



How to recognise the seedling?

Small leaves softer to touch with rounder tips than mānuka. Usually smaller and slower growing than mānuka. Bruised leaves can smell like banana skins.



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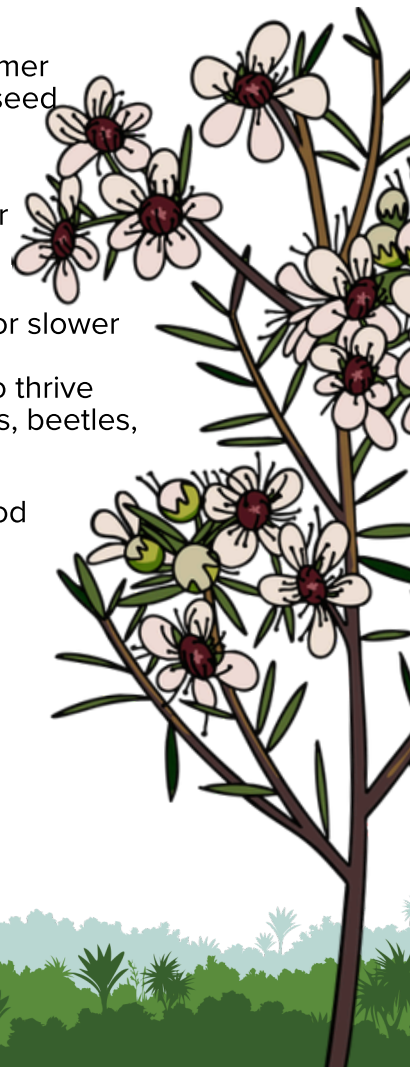
- Form:** Woody tree with central trunk 15- 20m
Bark peels on longer, papery strips
- Features:** Small 1cm long narrow leaves
Clusters of small 5 petalled flowers, typically flowers in summer
Tiny brown round, bowl shaped capsules contain very fine seed
- Where to plant:** Thrives in full sun in lowland to mountain scrub
Tolerant of wind, drought and frost but does not enjoy water logged soil
- Why plant:** Hardy, fast growing nurse/pioneer plant providing canopy for slower growing native species and introduces mycorrhizal fungi to the soil which sets up conditions for other native plants to thrive
Provides food (pollen and nectar) for bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, geckos and shelter and habitat for native wildlife
- Did you know?** Kānuka leaves have many medicinal properties and the wood is hard and durable

SCHOOL CARE:

Tips of mānuka can be trimmed/ pinched out to promote strong sturdy growth

LOOK OUT FOR:

Leaf roller caterpillars - if their webbing can be seen stitching leaves together these can be removed



Karamū Coprosma

Coprosma robusta



How to recognise the seedling?

Bright green leaves with smooth edges arranged in opposite pairs up stem



IDENTIFICATION:

- Form:** Large shrub/small tree to 4m
- Features:** Glossy, mid green leaves (7-12cm) arranged in opposite pairs up stem
Ridge on underside of leaf
Small pale flowers become dense clusters of berries changing from green to bright orange/red as they ripen
- Where to plant:** Tolerates a range of habitats from coastal to lowland and mountain
- shrubland to open sites in forest
- Why plant:** Fast to establish and will seed within 2 years
Pollinated by lizards with nectar and berries providing food for native birds
- Did you know?** Plant is related to the coffee bean and has two halves to the seed
Separate male and female plants

SCHOOL CARE:

Tips can be cut above a leaf node to promote strong sturdy growth - we want strong not leggy growth
Open growing unit curtains to allow air flow through growing unit to reduce fungal disease

LOOK OUT FOR:

Can be susceptible to black spot and other fungal diseases
Remove any diseased foliage and reduce overhead watering if possible



Māhoe Whiteywood

Melicytus ramiflorus



How to recognise the seedling?

Larger, oval, bright green leaves with toothed edges



IDENTIFICATION:

Form: Woody small tree to 6m

Features: Leaves are long, oval, mid green randomly arranged with toothed edge
Dark stems as a juvenile maturing to pale greyish-white trunk
Small greenish, fragrant flowers in clusters along twigs
Clusters of pale berries turning bright purple

Where to plant: Prefers to be at least 1m back from water and on higher slopes
Frost tender when young and needs protection from wind

Why plant: Fast growing, nurse species providing shelter for other plants
Fast root development and high root tensile strength makes it excellent for stabilising slopes
Berries and flowers provide food for birds and insects

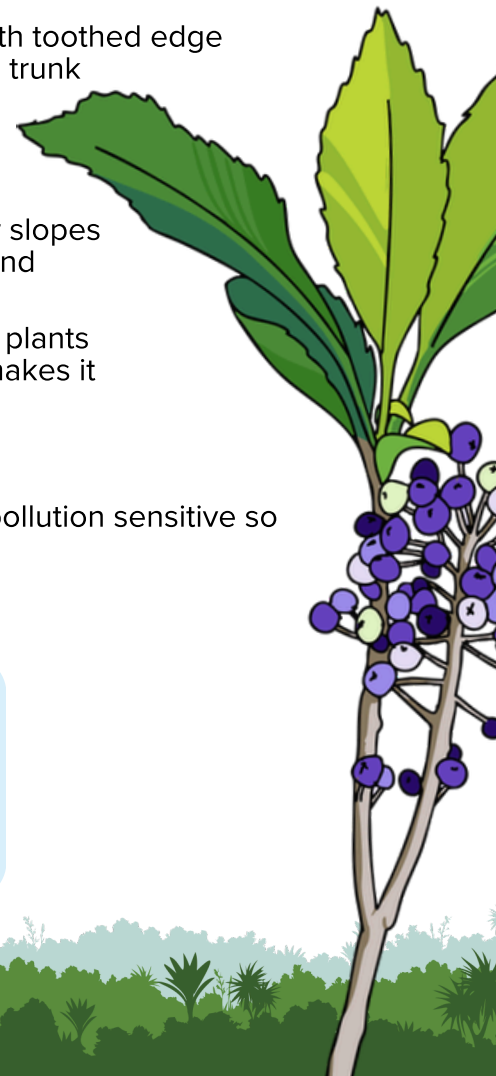
Did you know? Separate male and female trees
Bark often features white patches of lichen which are pollution sensitive so are an indicator of clean air
The purple berries can be used for dyeing fabric
Host plant for the mahoe stripper moth

SCHOOL CARE:

Tips may be pinched out to make plants bushier
Can be slow growing compared to other species

LOOK OUT FOR:

Frost tender



Ti Kōuka Cabbage Tree

Cordyline australis



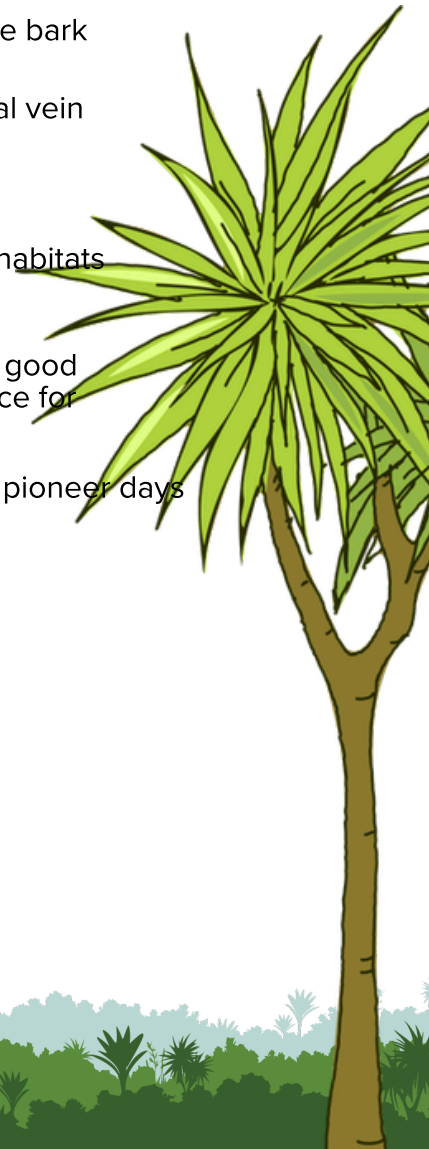
How to recognise the seedling?

Long pointed, dull green leaves arranged in circular whorl/spiral at the base
Leaves are yellower and thinner than flax with a pale central vein



IDENTIFICATION:

- Form:** Palm like tree with central trunk to 20m with thick, cork like bark
- Features:** Strappy long (up to 1m) pale to mid green with paler central vein
Large clusters of scented flowers with blue-white berries
Lots of black seeds are contained in the pale fruit
- Where to plant:** Prefers open areas and full sunlight. Tolerates a range of habitats including wet, swampy conditions and dry slopes
- Why plant:** Damp tolerant. Fast growing central taproot makes it very good for bank stabilisation. Flowers and berries are a food source for birds and insects
- Did you know?** The stem will not burn easily so was used for chimneys in pioneer days
Taproot and shoots can be eaten
Leaves a valuable fibre for weaving/making footwear



SCHOOL CARE:

Do not trim

LOOK OUT FOR:

Can rot if planted too deep.

Koromiko Hebe

Veronica stricta or *Veronica salicifolia*



How to recognise the seedling?

Rounded leaves when young arranged in opposite pairs



IDENTIFICATION:

Form: Woody shrub to 4m with pale trunk

Features: There are many varieties of hebe but *Veronica stricta* features dull green, narrow, pointed leaves arranged in opposite pairs along stem
Long (to 20cm) drooping flower spikes range from white/pale purple

Where to plant: Prefers to be at least 1m back from water and on higher slopes
Frost tender when young

Why plant: Easily grown nurse plant that provides food (nectar) and habitat for birds and insects

Did you know? New leaf tips have traditional use in rongoā māori and were sent to NZ troops in Africa during WW2 as remedy for stomach upsets

SCHOOL CARE:

May need trimming in warmer areas to promote root development and bushier growth
Open growing unit curtains to allow air flow through growing unit to reduce fungal disease

LOOK OUT FOR:

Can be susceptible to fungal diseases
Remove any diseased foliage and reduce overhead watering if possible



Harakeke Flax

Phormium tenax



How to recognise the seedling?

Long, dull green leaves arranged in flat fans at the base



IDENTIFICATION:

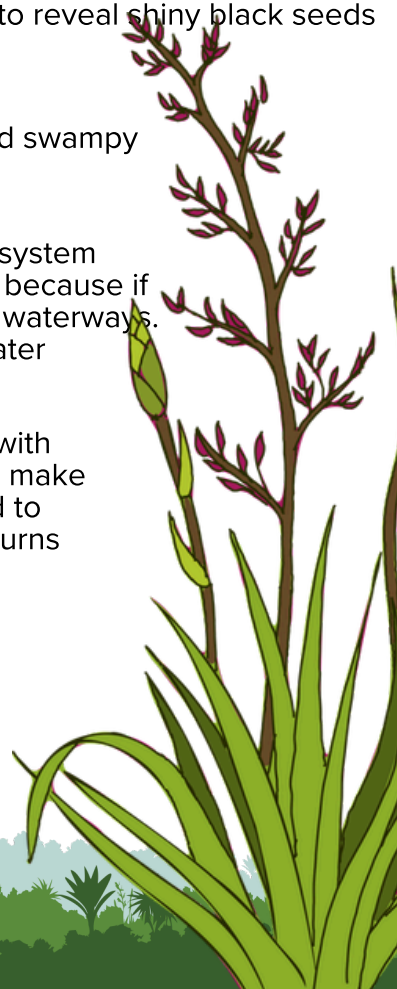
- Form:** Clump forming to 3m
- Features:** Strappy, wide grey green leaves in fan like clusters
Distinct flower and seed heads form on upright stems providing food for tui and bees
Seeds pods are held upright on stiff upright spears and open to reveal shiny black seeds
- Where to plant:** Tolerates a range of habitats including dry to water's edge and swampy conditions
- Why plant:** Important in riparian edge or wetland planting with deep root system stabilising banks. Should be planted away from stream edges because if water washes through in flood they can uproot and can block waterways. Also if planted as a solid wall can prevent bird access to water
- Did you know?** Leaves traditionally used in weaving with numerous varieties with specific uses known. The dried flower stems could be used to make temporary rafts. Has antiseptic properties with leaf fibres used to stitch wounds and ash from burnt flower stalks used to treat burns

SCHOOL CARE:

Do not trim

LOOK OUT FOR:

Can rot if planted too deep.



Toetoe ūpoko-tangata

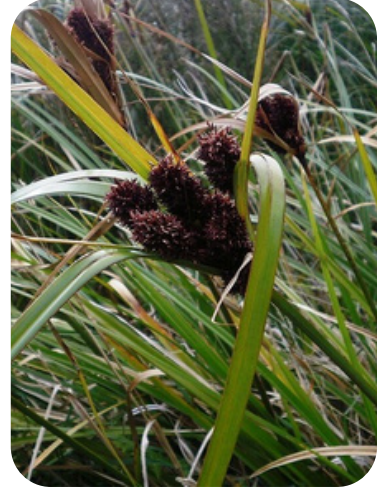
Giant umbrella sedge

Cyperus ustulatus



How to recognise the seedling?

Long, narrow, shiny pointed leaves with sharp edges and central vein. Leaves clump at the base



IDENTIFICATION:

- Form:** Clump forming sedge to 1m high
- Features:** Long, narrow, shiny pointed leaves with sharp edges and central vein. Leaves will make a snapping noise if folded
Umbels (flower clusters) form at the top of a stem above a modified leaf which helps protect the flower. Long, dark brown seed heads appear after flowering in summer
- Where to plant:** Grows well in very wet/waterlogged sites like wetland margins - close to but not in water
Tolerant of dry periods
- Why plant:** Will slow and filter water/runoff before entering waterways and roots will help stabilise banks. Provides nesting sites for water birds

Did you know?

SCHOOL CARE:

Can be trimmed/ cut back by up to 1/3 to promote strong root growth and prevent shading other plants and blocking irrigation in the growing unit. Repeat if needed

LOOK OUT FOR:

Plants have very sharp edges - handle at the base and wear gloves



Toetoe Toetoe

Austroderia fulvida (North Island)

Austroderia richardii (South Island)



How to recognise the seedling?

Grassy looking sharp leaves with pointed tips



IDENTIFICATION:

Form: Clump forming grass to 3m

Features: Flat, narrow green leaves with sharp edge and prominent vein either side of midrib
Graceful creamy flower heads are carried on arching stems, maturing to feathery seed heads

Where to plant: Tolerates a range of habitats but prefers swamps and wetland margins

Why plant: Waterfowl nest habitat

Did you know? Is New Zealand's largest native grass
Tiny seeds are wind dispersed
Used in kite making, hunting arrows and in house lining and tukutuku panels

SCHOOL CARE:

Plants have very sharp edges - handle at the base and wear gloves

LOOK OUT FOR:

Often confused with the weed pampas which features more upright leaves and flowers and curls of dead leaves at the base

