

Coastal



Developing a coastal area into garden is one of the most challenging situations for any gardener. With harsh elements to work with – sandy soils, salt wind, strong gales and minimal moisture – it is best to focus on what will grow naturally in that area. The old saying 'if you can't beat 'em, join 'em' applies here.

Initially there must be some shelter established. Pohutukawa, Ngaio, Karo, Flax, Taupata are the main species to do this. In very exposed areas, plan to do this the first year, along with some other structural planting of the garden (flax, toetoe, hebes etc) and complete the garden the following year.

The water, sand and headlands are the main focus in a coastal garden, with the plants becoming the frame for your view. Keep it simple with groups and repetitions. Stones, driftwood and shells combine well in these plantings to blend it into your environment.

Some extra compost/topsoil in each planting hole with a fertiliser tablet and Rainsaver will give good results. But there is no substitute for choosing the right plants for the site. Work with nature on this one, accept the harsh lessons and continue on – the rewards will be a stunning garden!



Plant Suggestions for Coastal gardens

	Botanical Name	Common Name
1	<i>Metrosideros</i>	Pohutukawa & hybrids
2	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Cabbage Tree
3	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	Harakeke – Flax
4	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>	Wharariki – Flax
5	<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>	Karo
6	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Ngaio
7	<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	Karaka
8	<i>Astelia chatamica</i>	'Silver Spear'
9	<i>Cortaderia toetoe</i>	Toetoe
10	<i>Poa Cita</i>	Silver Tussock
11	<i>Brachyglottis 'Silver Cloud'</i>	
12	<i>Meuhlenbeckia astonii</i>	
13	<i>Coprosma 'Cutie'</i>	
14	<i>Phormium 'Emerald Gem'</i>	Dwarf Flax
15	<i>Hebe 'Inspiration'</i>	
16	<i>Hebe 'Inspiration'</i>	
17	<i>Poa Cita</i>	Silver Tussock
18	<i>Hebe speciosa 'Blue'</i>	
19	<i>Disphyma australe</i>	NZ Ice Plant
20	<i>Hebe 'La Seduisante'</i>	
21	<i>Hebe speciosa</i>	
22	<i>Hebe 'Inspiration'</i>	
23	<i>Brachyglottis greyii</i>	Coastal Daisy
24	<i>Coprosma 'Cutie'</i>	
25	<i>Brachyglottis greyii</i>	Coastal Daisy
26	<i>Brachyglottis greyii</i>	Coastal Daisy
27	<i>Arthropodium</i>	Renga Renga Lily
28	<i>Helictotrichon</i>	Blue Oat Grass
29	<i>Carex spp</i>	Sedge Grass
30	<i>Pimelea prostrate 'Blue'</i>	NZ Daphne
31	<i>Coprosma acerosa</i>	
32	<i>Myoporum debile</i>	
33	<i>Myosotidium hortensa</i>	Chatham Island Forget-Me-Not
34	<i>Xeronema callistemon</i>	Poor Knights Lily

By no means limit yourself to the plants suggested. Substitute as appropriate for your site and situation.