

Shelter, Hedging & Borders



Hedges can be practical or purely aesthetic and have been used for centuries in formal gardens, as hedgerows to divide paddocks, to provide shelter or a food crop. The uses today are for similar purposes and with a wide variety of plants to choose from we can easily combine practical and aesthetic if we wish.

The plants listed in this brochure have been chosen for their hardiness, being relatively quick growing and easy to maintain. Borders and low hedges tend to consist of one species, as do some shelter belts. Mixed species can be used usually when planting two or more rows deep in a zig-zag fashion to provide an excellent filtered windbreak and a more natural look. With these mixed species borders/shelterbelts, there are many more plants that could be used other than what is listed. Firewood crops could be planted in a mixed shelterbelt, or a fast-growing hardier species used on the windward side with a slower-growing but more desirable plant used on the sheltered side, with the first species being cut down (or used for firewood) once the others have established. A mixed shelterbelt is also another excellent way to provide habitat for wildlife.

Determining what you want from your hedge, border or shelterbelt is the first step in knowing which plants to use. The amount of maintenance time you allow is another factor. Once planted, some time spent each year on trimming and fertilising will give excellent results.

Plant Suggestions for Shelter, Hedging and Borders

Plants that grow up to 50cm

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Brachyglottis compactum</i>	Coastal Daisy
<i>Coprosma</i>	'Cutie'
<i>Corokia spp</i>	Korokio
<i>Hebe albicans</i>	
<i>Hebe</i>	'Champagne'
<i>Hebe pinguifolia</i>	
<i>Hebe topiara</i>	
<i>Hebe hybrids</i>	(see current price list)
<i>Leptospermum nanum</i>	Dwarf Manuka
<i>Parahebe</i>	
<i>Phormium</i>	'Thumbelina' Dwarf Flax
<i>Phormium</i>	'Tom Thumb' Dwarf Flax

Plants that grow up to 1m

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Brachyglottis greyii</i>	Coastal Daisy
<i>Cassinia spp</i>	Cottonwood
<i>Coprosma 'Middlemore'</i>	
<i>Coprosma 'Pride'</i>	
<i>Corokia spp</i>	Korokio
<i>Haloragis erecta</i>	Toatoa
<i>Hebe hybrids</i>	(see current list)
<i>Hebe diosmifolia</i>	
<i>Leptospermum</i>	Manuka hybrids
<i>Olearia traversii</i>	Chatham Ake
<i>Phormium spp</i>	Flax

Plants that grow 1m to 2m tall

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Carmichaelia odorata</i>	NZ Broom
<i>Cassinia fulvida</i>	Cottonwood
<i>Coprosma 'Marble Queen'</i>	
<i>Coprosma 'Painters Palette'</i>	
<i>Coprosma 'Yvonne'</i>	
<i>Corokia spp</i>	Korokio
<i>Cortaderia toetoe</i>	Toetoe
<i>Hebe arborea</i>	Koromiko taranga
<i>Hebe speciosa</i>	Blue
<i>Hebe speciosa</i>	
<i>Leptospermum hybrids</i>	Manuka Hybrids
<i>Lophomyrtus spp</i>	
<i>Meulenbeckia astonii</i>	
<i>Metrosideros spp</i>	Pohutukawa
<i>Phormium</i>	Flax
<i>Pittosporum</i>	
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	Shore Ribbonwood

Plants that grow 2m to 4m tall

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Taupata
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	Karamu
<i>Dodonaea viscosa & purpurea</i>	Ake Ake
<i>Hoheria 'alba variegata'</i>	Lacebark
<i>Lophomyrtus spp</i>	
<i>Metrosideros spp</i>	Pohutukawa
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	Matipo
<i>Myrsine divaricatus</i>	
<i>Olearia traversii</i>	Chatham Ake
<i>Pittosporum</i>	
<i>Pseudopanax</i>	Fivefinger

Plants that grow 4+ metres tall

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	Rimu
<i>Griselinia</i>	Broadleaf
<i>Hoheria populnea</i>	Lacebark
<i>Hoheria sextylosa</i>	Lacebark
<i>Hoheria variegata</i>	Lacebark
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	Totara
<i>Plagianthus betulinus/regius</i>	Ribbonwood
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Kanuka
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Manuka
<i>Melicope ternata</i>	Wharangi
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	Whiteywood
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	Pohutukawa
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Ngaio
<i>Pittosporum</i>	
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	Puriri