



New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank

Podocarps and Trees of the Forest

The broadleaf and coniferous trees and shrubs are the backbone of the New Zealand's forest. Conifers from the family Podocarpaceae include rimu, totara, miro and matai, while other indigenous conifers are kauri, and the native cypresses kawaka and kaikawaka. Broadleaf trees include tawa, titoki, kohekohe, and rewarewa. The shrub layer of the forest includes species like mahoe, pittosporum, hebe and daisy bushes. Some 250 tree and shrub species (on-shore and off-shore) are At Risk or Threatened, with kauri and rata also threatened by disease. The woody flora forms the structure of our forests and its loss would devastate our forests and off-shore islands. A number of species in this group are thought to be desiccation sensitive and therefore cannot be banked under standard conditions. New protocols will need to be developed for these species.