



New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank

Alpine Flora and the Forget-Me-Nots

The alpine flora is a significant component of New Zealand's flora. One third of New Zealand's flora is found in the alpine zone, including around 500 species found exclusively in the alpine zone. Around 83% of the species in the alpine zone are found only in New Zealand, and about a third of those species are either At Risk or Threatened. Most at risk are the alpine forget-me-nots (*Myosotis* species), alpine daphne (*Pimelea* spp.), hebe (*Hebe*, *Chionohebe*, *Parahebe* spp.), the alpine daisies (*Celmisia* spp.), buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.), speargrass (*Aciphylla* spp.) and gentians (*Gentianella* spp.). Alpine flora has some level of protection in National Parks, but at the same time is threatened by human pressure, browsing animals, and is especially vulnerable to climate change (as the opportunity to migrate to new environments is limited). Alpine systems are fragile and if lost, our alpine biodiversity and ecosystems can never be replaced. There is some urgency to conserve these species. Seed banking of this group will safeguard the diversity of these species.