PLANT ME INSTEAD!

BAY OF PLENTY REGION
Acknowledgements

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While all non-native alternatives have been screened against several databases to ensure they are not considered weedy, predicting future behaviour is not an exact science! The only way to be 100% sure is to use ecosourced native species (native plants grown from local seed that will grow best in local conditions).
Many of the weedy species that are invading and damaging our natural areas are ornamental plants that have ‘jumped the fence’ from gardens and gone wild. It costs councils, government departments and private landowners millions of dollars, and volunteers and community groups thousands of unpaid hours, to control these weeds every year.

This *Plant Me Instead* booklet profiles the environmental weeds of greatest concern to those in your region who work and volunteer in local parks and reserves, national parks, bush remnants, wetlands and coastal areas. Suggestions are given for locally-sold non-weedy species, both native and non-native, that can be used to replace these weeds in your garden.

We hope that this booklet gives you some ideas on what you can do in your own backyard to help protect New Zealand’s precious environment.

For more information on these weeds, including control and disposal, check out:  

[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)

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**Know what’s weedy**

- Groundcovers and fillers ........................................ 1
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Look for the kiwi – NZ’s iconic bird – it is used to mark native alternatives.
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Bear’s breeches** *(Acanthus mollis)*

Perennial with glossy, angular, dark green leaves and prickly erect spikes of purple and white flowers. Spreads by seeds dropped and moved by water and animals, and by root fragments. Forms dense infestations under bush canopy and in dry, sandy conditions, suppressing native seedlings.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Chatham Is. forget-me-not** *(Myosotidium hortensia)*

Also consider:
- Harakeke *(Phormium tenax)*
- Piu piu *(Blechnum discolor)*

**Leopard plant** *(Ligularia tussilaginea)*

Also consider:
- Lady’s mantle *(Alchemilla mollis)*
Mistflower & Mexican devil (Ageratina spp)

Erect, sprawling perennials to 1 metre tall with narrow, dull green leaves with serrated edges. Small white, fluffy flowers are followed by wind-spread seeds. Can completely smother native plant communities and cause sediment build-up, flooding and instability in steep gullies and streams.

Parataniwha (Elatostema rugosum)

Also consider:
- Kakaha (Astelia fragrans)
- Rengarenga (Arthropodium cirratum)
- Jovellana sinclairii

Flannel flower (Phylica plumosa)

Also consider:
- Victorian Christmas bush (Prostantha lasianthos)
Large, robust plant with thick, fleshy underground stems, milky sap and large, erect, bright green, leathery leaves. Stems are thick and trunk-like in mature plants, with the lower part often lying along the ground. Spread is by glossy scarlet or orange, bird-spread berries and by root fragments. Shades out native ground cover species and seedlings.

Also consider:
- Harakeke (Phormium tenax)
- Chatham Island forget-me-not (Myosotidium hortensia)
- Chinese rhubarb (Rheum palmatum)
- Ligularia tussilaginea ‘Martian Invader’
- Soloman’s seal (Polygonatum biflorum)
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Heather (Calluna vulgaris)**

Evergreen, upright, low-growing shrub with small, narrow leaves. Spikes of small, purple, bell-shaped flowers on short stalks are followed by small, hairy seed capsules. Invades tussock grassland, tolerating cold climates and poor soils and forming dense patches that crowd out native species.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Whip cord hebe (Hebe cupressoides)**

Also consider:
- Tauhinu (Ozothamnus leptophylla)
- Tauhinu (Pomaderris phylicifolia)

**Breath of heaven (Coleonema album)**

Also consider:
- Pink breath of heaven (Coleonema pulchrum)
- Rice flower (Pimelea spectabilis)
- Heuchera ‘Snowstorm’
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Snow poppy  (*Eomecon chionantha*)

Invasive perennial with long underground root systems and round, leathery leaves with waxy margins and reddish stems. White flowers with yellow centres are followed by wind-spread seed. Shade tolerant, and smothers small native plants as well as preventing their germination.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Rengarenga  (*Arthropodium cirratum*)

Also consider:
- *Geranium traversii*
- *Parahebe catarractae* ‘Snowcap’
- Swamp musk (*Mazus radicans*)

Winter rose  (*Helleborus orientalis*)

Also consider:
- *Tiarella wherryi* ‘Spring Symphony’
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Mexican daisy  *(Erigeron karvinskianus)*

Vigorous groundcover with small green leaves and pink to white flowers almost all year round. Seeds prolifically and can form dense smothering mats in natural areas crowding out native species.

Also consider:
Rauhuia  *(Linum monogynum)*
Anaphalis keriensis

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Hell’s bells  *(Anaphaliodes belliioides)*

Also consider:
Rauhuia  *(Linum monogynum)*
Anaphalis keriensis

Chamomile sunray  *(Rhodanthe anthemoides)*

Also consider:
Verbena peruviana
Verbena x hybrids
Artillery plant (Galeobdolon luteum)

Vigorous perennial groundcover with yellow flowers, hairy purplish stems, and leaves with silvery-white patches. Mainly spreads by fragments and can quickly form thick, invasive, smothering mats that prevent native plants establishing.

Panakenake (Pratia angulata)

Also consider:
- Alpine hard fern (Blechnum penna-marina)
- Parahebe (Parahebe linifolia)

Mondo grass (Ophiopogon ecklonii)

Also consider:
- Liriope muscari ‘Stripey White’
- Tiarella wherryi ‘Spring Symphony’
**Chilean rhubarb (Gunnera tinctoria)**

Perennial with large, rough, rhubarb-like leaves to 2 metres across on prickly stems. Cone-shaped flowerheads produce small, bird-spread seeds. Invades coastal cliffs, stream margins, wetlands, and slip faces, with the large leaves shading out native species.

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**Parataniwha (Elatostema rugosum)**

Also consider:
- Kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*)
- Kakaha (*Astelia fragrans*)

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**Chinese rhubarb (Rheum palmatum)**

Also consider:
- *Hosta* species and cultivars
- Leopard plant (*Ligularia tussilaginea*)

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Also consider:**

- *Hosta* species and cultivars
- Leopard plant (*Ligularia tussilaginea*)
Yellow & kahili ginger (*Hedychium* species)

Herbaceous perennials with large, branching, tuberous roots that form mats up to 1 metre thick. *Hedychium gardnerianum* spreads by seeds and root fragments, while *Hedychium flavescens* spreads only by root fragments. Forms dense colonies in natural areas smothering native plants and preventing native seedlings establishing.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Rengarenga** *(Arthropodium cirratum)*

Also consider:
- Harakeke (*Phormium tenax*)
- Puka (*Meryta sinclairii*)

**Bird of paradise** *(Strelitzia reginae)*

Also consider:
- *Hippeastrum* cultivars
- *Anigozanthos* species
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

- **Chameleon plant** (*Houttyinia cordata*)
  - Deciduous creeping perennial, creeping herb up to 70cm tall.
  - Heart-shaped, alternate leaves are multi-coloured yellow, green, bronze and scarlet. Shade tolerant. Spreads by both seeds and rhizome fragments and is shade tolerant. Covers large areas by creeping stolons and an extensive root system, rapidly displacing native plants in forest and wetland ecosystems.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

- **Geranium sessiflorum x traversii ‘Pink Spice’**
  - Also consider:
    - Gunnera prorepens
    - Kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*)

- **Turf lily** (*Liriope muscari*)
  - Also consider:
    - *Tiarella wherryi* ‘Spring Symphony’
    - Spanish shawl (*Heterocentron elegans*)
Blue spur flower (*Plectranthus ciliatus*)

Upright herb with trailing stems and aromatic leaves with purple undersides. Spikes of white flowers are followed by seed capsules. Spreads rapidly in native forest, smothering the ground and preventing native seedlings from establishing.

Also consider:
- Bidibid (*Acaena inermis*)
- Parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*)

**Creeping fuchsia** (*Fuchsia procumbens*)

Also consider:
- Evergreen hydrangea (*Dichroa versicolor*)
- Fairy fan flower (*Scavola aemula*)

**Heartleaf saxifrage** (*Bergenia cordifolia*)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

African club moss (Selaginella kraussiana)

Creeping, fernlike groundcover with slender stems and tiny leaves. Produces millions of tiny spores and grows from fragments. Forms dense mats in shady areas that crowd out native seedlings and replace low-growing native plants, such as mosses and ferns.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Nertera (Nertera depressa)

Also consider:
- Scleranthus biflorus
- True maidenhead fern (Adiantum aethiopicum)
- Alpine hard fern (Blechnum penna-marina)

Dalmation bellflower (Campanula portenschlagiana)

Also consider:
- Moss campion (Silene acaulis)
- Woolly thyme (Thymus pseudolanuginosus)
**Tradescantia** (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)

Succulent, creeping, dark green perennial groundcover. White three-petalled triangular flowers do not produce seed, but fragments of stem take root. Forms dense mats that smother native plants and prevent native seedlings establishing. Can cause contact dermatitis in dogs.

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**Panakenake** (*Pratia angulata*)

Also consider:
- Nertera (*Nertera depressa*)
- Maidenhead fern (*Adiantum cunninghamii*)
- Fuchsia procumbens
- Mercury Bay plant (*Dichondra repens*)

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**Winter rose** (*Helleborus orientalis*)

Also consider:
- Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla*)

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**Groundcovers and fillers**
Periwinkle (Vinca major)

Evergreen perennial groundcover with oval, waxy leaves and mauve-blue flowers. Stems root when they come in contact with the soil, forming very dense, carpet-like mats that smother native plants and prevent native seedlings establishing.

Turutu (Dianella nigra)

Also consider:
Powhihi (Calystegia tuguriorum)
Panakenake (Pratia angulata)

Speedwell (Veronica prostrata)

Also consider:
Plumbago auriculata ‘Royal Cape’
Fairy fan flower (Scaevola aemula)
Scabiosa columbaria ‘Blue Butterfly’
Agapanthus (Agapanthus praecox)

Robust, evergreen, clump-forming perennial to 60 centimetres tall with up to 20 wide leathery leaves on each shoot. Light blue or white flowers forming umbrella-shaped clusters are followed by seed spread by wind and water; it is also spread by the long, thick, underground stem system. Forms dense mats that exclude native species, and seedlings easily outcompete young native plants in warm, dry places.

Mikoikoi (Libertia ixiodes)

Also consider:
Turutu (Dianella nigra)
Rengarenga (Arthropodium cirratum)

Turf lily (Liriope muscari)

Also consider:
Day lily (Hemerocallis species except H. fulva)
Blue cape flower (Plumbago capensis)
Heliotropium arborescens
**Canna lily (Canna indica)**

Clump-forming perennial growing to 2 metres, with long, fleshy, bright green leaves and a thick spreading root system. Showy red or yellow flowerheads are followed by black, bird-spread seeds. Also spreads by root fragments. Grows in dense thickets crowding out native species.

**Rengarenga (Arthropodium cirratum)**

Also consider:
- Wharariki (*Phormium cookianum*)
- Maori onion (*Bulbinella hookeri*)

**Hemerocallis ‘Amber glow’**

Also consider:
- Leopard plant (*Ligularia tussilaginea*)
Pampas (Cortaderia selloana & C. jubata)

Large, perennial, clump-forming grass to 5 metres tall with large, fluffy, upright flowers and narrow, sharp-edged leaves. Flowers of *Cortaderia selloana* are white, while those of *Cortaderia jubata* have a purple tinge. Invades natural areas, suppressing native plants, harbouring animal pests and creating a fire risk.

Toetoe (Cortaderia toetoe)

Also consider:
- *Chionochloa flavicans*
- Toetoe (Cortaderia fulvida)

Red tussock (Chionochloa rubra)

Also consider:
- Hunangamoho (*Chionochloa conspicua*)
- Gossamer grass (*Anemanthele lessoniana*)
Montbretia (Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora)

Evergreen or summer-green clump-forming perennial with bright green, sword-shaped leaves. Orange-red flowers are followed by seed capsules, and it also spreads by underground corms. Invades natural areas, crowding out native species, and the masses of spreading corms in the soil can contribute to erosion, siltation, and the breakdown of stream banks.

Rengarenga (Arthropodium cirratum)

Also consider:
- Maori onion (Bulbinella hookeri)
- Poor Knight’s lily (Xeronema callistemon)

Hemerocallis ‘Amber glow’

Also consider:
- Barbados lily (Hippeastrum puniceum)
- Crown Imperial (Fritillaria imperialis)

Grasses, bulbs and ferns
**Yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus)**

Semi-aquatic perennial growing in clumps to 2 metres tall, with dense rhizomes that form floating mats, and sword-like leaves emerging in fans from a reddish base. Yellow flowers are followed by seed capsules containing many brown, flattened, three-sided, disc-like seeds. Crowds out native species that grow on margins of water bodies and can invade flood-prone pasture.

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**Kutakuta (Eleocharis sphacelata)**

Also consider:
- Raupo (Typha orientalis)
- Oioi (Apodasmia similis)
- Flax (Phormium tenax)

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**Acorus graminus variegatus**

Also consider:
- Blue iris (Iris versicolor)
Himalayan fairy grass (*Miscanthus nepalensis*)

Clump forming grass growing to 1 metre, with long leaf blades with a white stripe along the midrib. Flower stalks support a dainty cluster of bright golden flowers drooping from the tip. Invades dry sunny areas crowding out native species.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Chionochloa flavicans**

Also consider:
- *Chionochloa beddiei*
- Toetoe (*Cortaderia toetoe* or *C. fulvida*)

**Blue fescue (Festuca glauca)**

Also consider:
- Oatgrass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)

Grasses, bulbs and ferns
**GARDEN ESCAPEEE**

**Tuber ladder fern** (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)

Shade tolerant perennial fern with upright, ladder-like green fronds growing from a dense, wiry root system that produces numerous hairy, brown tubers, each capable of forming a new plant. Forms dense colonies that crowd out and replace low growing native plants.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Puniu** (*Polystichum vestitum*)

Also consider:
Piu piu (*Blechnum discolor*)

**Pukupuku** (*Doodia australis*)

Also consider:
Button fern (*Pellaea rotundifolia*)
Hen and chicken fern (*Asplenium bulbiferum*)

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Grasses, bulbs and ferns
**Bamboo** *(Pseudosasa japonica)*

Medium-sized bamboo up to 5 metres tall with bright green leaves and dark green canes. Spreads by an extensive and aggressive underground root system. Forms dense thickets that crowd out native species in natural areas. Bamboo grass (*Piptatherum miliaceum*), black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) and golden bamboo (*P. aurea*) are also weedy.

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**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Pepepe** *(Machaerina sinclairii)*

Also consider:
- Cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*)
- Flax (*Phormium tenax*)

**Cape reed** *(Elegia capensis)*

Also consider:
- *Bambusa gracilis*
Palm grass (Setaria palmifolia)

Large, strongly rooted perennial grass with distinctive pleated, prickly leaves, and many irritating hairs on the leaf stalks. Spreads by seed and root fragments. Grows in full sun or semi-shade, crowding out native grasses and low growing species.

Phormium cultivars

Toetoe (Cortaderia toetoe)

Also consider:
Chionochloa beddlei

Also consider:
Red tussock (Chionochloa rubra)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Arum lily & Green goddess

(Zantedeschia aethiopica)
Robust, evergreen, clump-forming plant to 1.5 metres tall with large, leathery, arrowhead-shaped leaves. Trumpet-shaped ‘flowers’ consist of a large, greenish-white modified leaf enclosing the yellow spike-shaped flower inside. Spreads by seed and tubers. Persistent colony-forming invader of swampy areas, smothering the ground and preventing the establishment of native seedlings.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Kahakaha
(Astelia nervosa)

Hosta species

Also consider:
Kakaha (Astelia fragrans)
Rengarenga (Arthropodium cirratum)

Also consider:
Calla lily (Zantedeschia rehmannii x elliottiana)
Anigozanthos species
Hemerocallis pink cultivars (except H. fulva)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Chocolate vine (Akebia quinata)

High climbing deciduous or evergreen vine with bright green leaves made up of five or less leaflets. Fragrant chocolate-purple coloured flowers are sometimes followed by flattened, sausage-shaped pods. Spreads by stem and root fragments and seed, and smothers native plants in natural areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Puawananga (Clematis paniculata)

Also consider:
Akakiore (Parsonsia heterophylla)
Kohia (Passiflora tetrandra)

Chilean bellflower (Lapageria rosea)

Also consider:
Purple coral pea (Hardenbergia violacea)
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Mignonette vine** *(Anredera cordifolia)*

Perennial creeper with fleshy, heart-shaped leaves and tuberous rhizomes, both underground and along the stems, which are its main method of spread. Produces spikes of sweetly scented white flowers. Smothers or replaces native plants in natural areas.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Three King’s vine** *(Tecomanthe speciosa)*

Also consider:
White rata *(Metrosideros perforata)*

**Climbing hydrangea** *(Hydrangea petiolaris)*

Also consider:
Potato vine *(Solanum jasminoides)*
**Moth plant / cruel vine (Araujia sericifera)**

Slender evergreen vine climbing to 6 metres with stems containing a milky white sap that can irritate skin and eyes. Waxy white flowers are followed by large, choko-like green pods containing black, wind-spread seeds; the seedpods may be harmful to humans or animals if eaten. Competes with, smothers, and replaces native plants in natural areas.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Scented clematis (Clematis foetida)**

Also consider:  
*Clematis parviflora*  
*Clematis paniculata*

**Morning glory (Convulvulus cneorum)**

Also consider:  
Potato vine (*Solanum jasminoides*)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Asparagus species

Asparagus species are climbing and scrambling vines with tuberous root systems, thin wiry stems, and 'leaves' that are actually flattened stems, ranging in shape from oval to needle-like depending on species. Inconspicuous pinkish-white flowers are followed by red, bird-spread berries. Rapidly smothers native species in natural areas, and spines on some species discourages access through infested areas. This weed group does not include edible asparagus.

Asparagus asparagoides
Asparagus setaceus
Asparagus aethiopicus
Asparagus scandens

Asparagus aethiopicus (J. Lewis (all))

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

White rata
(Metrosideros perforata)

Star jasmine
(Trachelospermum jasminoides)

White rata (Metrosideros perforata) is a great option for planting instead of Asparagus species. It is a climbing vine with small white flowers and is native to New Zealand.

Also consider:
Firecracker vine (Manettia luteorubra)
Silver veined creeper (Parthenocissus henryana)

Climbers and vines 28

Also consider:
Pohuehue (Muehlenbeckia complexa)
Maidenhair fern (Adiantum cunninghamii)
Greater bindweed (Calystegia sylvatica)

Robust, sprawling, climbing perennial to 4 metres with large triangular or arrow-shaped leaves and large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers. Stems usually die down in winter, but an extensive underground rhizome system makes this weed difficult to control. Invades and smothers native species in natural areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

NZ bindweed (Calystegia tuguriorum)

Morning glory (Convolvulus cneorum)

Also consider:
Parahebe linifolia

Also consider:
Bower vine (Pandorea jasminoides)
Star jasmine (Trachelospermum jasminoides)
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Cathedral bells** *(Cobaea scandens)*

Vigorous, fast growing, perennial climber with stems up to 10 metres long. Purple bell-shaped flowers are followed by oval green fruit that produce winged water- or wind-spread seeds. Grows over trees and shrubs forming a dense canopy and smothering native plants.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Purple coral pea** *(Hardenbergia violacea)*

Also consider:
- White rata *(Metrosideros perforata)*
- Scarlet rata *(Metrosideros fulgens)*

Also consider:
- Sandpaper vine *(Petrea volubilis)*

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**Rata** *(Metrosideros fulgens)*

Also consider:
- White rata *(Metrosideros perforata)*
- Scarlet rata *(Metrosideros fulgens)*
**Mile-a-minute** (*Dipogon lignosus*)

Climbing or scrambling perennial vine with three heart-shaped leaflets per leaf. Produces white to pink pea-like flowers followed by seedpods. Smothers low-growing native plants, eventually replacing them completely.

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**Three King’s vine** (*Tecomanche speciosa*)

Also consider: *Metrosideros carminea*

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**Purple coral pea** (*Hardenbergia violacea*)

Also consider: Sky flower (*Thunbergia grandiflora*)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

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**English ivy (Hedera helix)**

Ivy is very tenacious and can creep along the ground forming a dense mat or just as easily climb way up into the trees. Stems can take root either on the ground or onto other plants, walls and fences. Ivy leaves are usually lobed but can vary in colour, size and shape, and the stems are light brown and woody.

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PLANT ME INSTEAD...

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**Pohuehue (Muehlenbeckia complexa)**

Also consider:
- Scarlet rata (Metrosideros fulgens)
- Puawananga (Clematis paniculata)

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**Climbing hydrangea (Hydrangea petiolaris)**

Also consider:
- Virginia creeper (Pathenocissus quinquefolia)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Blue morning glory (Ipomoea indica)

High climbing perennial vine with mid- to dull-green three-lobed leaves. Purple-blue flowers are very rarely followed by viable seed in New Zealand, but new plants establish readily from stem fragments. Smothers native plants in natural areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

NZ bindweed (Calystegia tuguriorum)

Also consider:
Powhiwhi (Calystegia tuguriorum)
Leafless clematis (Clematis afoliata)
Scrambling fuchsia (Fuchsia perscandens)

Evergreen clematis (Clematis armandii)

Also consider:
Sky flower (Thunbergia grandiflora)
Bluebell creeper (Sollya fusiformis)
Clematis hybrids
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Jasmine** (*Jasminum polyanthum*)

Vigorous evergreen climber growing to 10 metres. Clusters of highly scented pinkish-white flowers are sometimes followed by black, bird-spread berries. Mainly spreads by taking root where it touches the ground, forming a dense groundcover as well as smothering vegetation up to mid-canopy level. Capable of seriously damaging native forest. Yellow jasmine (*Jasminum humile*) is also weedy.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Akakiore** (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)

Also consider:
- Leafless clematis (*Clematis afoliata*)
- Kohia (*Passiflora tetrandra*)

**Star jasmine** (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

Also consider:
- Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

Climbers and vines 34
Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

Vigorous smothering climber capable of growing 15 metres each year. Produces sweetly scented white and yellow flowers, followed by black, bird-spread fruit. Also spreads by stem fragments. Invades natural areas, completely smothering small trees and shrubs. English honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), hedge honeysuckle (*L. nitida*) and *L.x. americana* are also weedy.

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Small white clematis (*Clematis forsteri*)

Also consider:
- Leafless clematis (*Clematis afoliata*)
- Kohia (*Passiflora tetrandra*)

White flowered banksia (*Rosa banksiae*)

Also consider:
- Snake vine (*Hibbertia scandens*)

Department of Conservation

www.cdfphoto.com
Banana passionfruit & blue passionflower

*(Passiflora species)*

Vigorous evergreen climbers reaching 10 metres. Banana passionfruit (*P. tripartita, P. tarminiana, P. mixta*) has tubular pink flowers and oval yellow edible fruit; blue passion flower (*P. caerulea*) has blue-white flowers and inedible orange fruit. Both spread by seed or take root where stems touch the ground. They overtop and smother trees in native forest and crowd out low-growing native plants.

Kohia

*(Passiflora tetrandra)*

Also consider:

- Akakiore (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)
- Carmine rata (*Metrosideros carminea*)

Chilean bellflower

*(Lapageria rosea)*

Also consider:

*Passiflora x violacea* ‘Eynsford Gem’
Climbing dock (*Rumex sagittatus*)

Low climbing or scrambling herb with a woody, tuberous, kumara-like rootstock and stems to 3 metres long. Reddish-green arrowhead-shaped leaves, and spikes of small, attractive yellow-pink flowers followed by wind-spread seed. Develops into a smothering mass among native plants.

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PLANT ME INSTEAD...

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**NZ bindweed**

(*Calystegia tuguriorum*)

Also consider:

horokaka native ice plant (*Disphyma australe*)

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**Purple coral pea**

(*Hardenbergia violacea*)

Also consider:

Chillian bell flower (*Lapageria rosea*)

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Also try:

Chillian bellflower (*Lapageria rosea*)

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Also consider:

horokaka native ice plant (*Disphyma australe*)

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Also try:

Chillian bellflower (*Lapageria rosea*)

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Also consider:

horokaka native ice plant (*Disphyma australe*)

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Also try:

Chillian bellflower (*Lapageria rosea*)
Senecio species

Cape and German ivy are scrambling perennials with wiry to woody stems, fleshy, leathery leaves with coarse serrations on each edge. Velvet groundsel has large, velvety leaves. All have dense clusters of yellow, ragwort-like flowers followed by fluffy wind-spread seeds, and stems that take root where they touch the ground and scramble over low-growing plants.

C.Lewis

Also consider:
Leafless clematis (Clematis afoliata)
White rata (Metrosideros perforata)

Yellow jessamine
(Gelsemium sempervirens)

Puawananga
(Clematis paniculata)

Also consider:
Rosa banksia ‘Luteum’
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Monkey apple (Acmena smithii)**

Tree to 20 metres tall with bronze-purple new foliage and fleshy white or pinky-mauve bird-spread fruit. Commonly used for hedging and as an ornamental. Seedlings are shade tolerant and can establish under forest canopies, eventually replacing canopy species altogether. Brush cherry (*Syzigium australe*) is closely related, looks very similar, and is also weedy.

---

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Wharangi (Melicope ternata)**

Also consider:
- Titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*)
- Kaikomako (*Pennantia corymbosa*)

**Sweet michelia (Michelia doltsopa)**

Also consider:
- *Michelia yunnanensis*
- Giant dogwood (*Cornus controversa*)
Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Fast-growing deciduous tree with leaves made up of smaller alternating leaflets that have a pungent smell when crushed. Yellow-green flowers are followed by large amounts of seed. Also spreads through an aggressive suckering root system that produces toxins that prevent other species establishing near it. Crowds out native species in natural areas.

---

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Titoki**

(*Alectryon excelsus*)

Also consider:
- Kowhai (*Sophora tetraptera*)

**Liquidamber**

(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Also consider:
- Willow myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*)
- Blue jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

---

*Shrubs, trees and palms*
Deciduous or semi-evergreen many-stemmed shrub to 4 metres tall. Spikes of fragrant blue to purple flowers are followed by numerous wind-spread seeds. Dull green, lance-shaped leaves are often hairy. Forms dense colonies and is an invader of exotic forestry and natural areas.

C.L. Lewis

**Koromiko**

*(Hebe salicifolia)*

Also consider:
Kawakakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*)
Corokia buddleioides

**Silk tassel bush**

*(Garrya elliptica)*

Also consider:
Luculia (*Luculia gratissima*)
Beauty bush (*Calliandra portoricensis*)
Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Cestrum (Cestrum species)

Shrubs or small trees to 4m tall with hairy or smooth leaves that are foul smelling when bruised. Tubular flowers (red, orange, green or white), often fragrant, are followed by berries containing seed. Grows vigorously, invades forest and other natural areas, and forms dense undergrowth that crowds out other species. All cestrum species are toxic to stock.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Kakabeak (Clianthus puniceus)

Also consider:
Kotukutuku (Fuchsia excorticata)

Also consider:
Correa reflexa
Fuchsia hybrids (not F. magellanica)

Correa pulchella ‘Salmon Pink’

Also consider:
Correa reflexa
Fuchsia hybrids (not F. magellanica)
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Cotoneaster** *(Cotoneaster franchetti / C. simonsii)*

Spreading evergreen shrubs growing to 4 metres, with blue-green leaves and bunches of glossy, bright red, bird-spread berries. Younger leaves have downy white undersides. Invades natural areas and forms dense stands that crowd out native species.

---

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Corokia** *(Corokia cotoneaster)*

Also consider:
Karamu *(Coprosma robusta)*

**Photinia** *(Photinia x fraseri ‘Red Robin’)*

Also consider:
Crepe myrtle *(Lagerstroemia indica)*
GARDEN ESCAPEE

**Strawberry dogwood** *(Dendrobenthamia capitata)*

Bushy evergreen tree up to 6 metres tall with oval grey-green leaves tapering to a long point, paler underneath, and densely covered in fine hairs. Pale yellow flowers are followed by red strawberry-like, bird-spread fruit. Crowds out native species in regenerating bush areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

**Pohutukawa** *(Metrosideros excelsa)*

Also consider:
- Titoki *(Alectryon excelsus)*
- Whau *(Entelia arborescens)*
- Northern rata *(Metrosideros robusta)*

**Cornus florida** ‘Spring song’

Also consider:
- Sweet michelia *(Michelia doltsopa)*
- Kousa dogwood *(Cornus kousa)*

Shrubs, trees and palms
Elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus x reflexa*)

Long lived, vigorous scrambling vine with arching spiny stems to 20 metres long and oval leaves with metallic coloured undersides. Inconspicuous flowers are sometimes followed by oval orange to red fruit. Spreads by stem and root fragments, and occasionally seed, forming a dense blanket smothering native species and preventing access into recreational areas.

Kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*)

Also consider:
- Karamu (*Coprosma robusta*)
- Tarata (*Pittosporum eugenioides*)

Silk tassel bush (*Garrya elliptica*)

Also consider:
- Fragrant viburnum (*Viburnum farreri*)
- *Photinia ‘red robin’*
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla)

Shrub up to 3m tall with large shiny leaves. Large heads of blue, white or pink flowers in summer are followed by wind-blown seed. Hydrangeas adapt to most conditions and invade low light, moist areas such as river banks and bush gullies, crowding out other species.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Karamu (Coprosma robusta)

Also consider:
- Manuka (Leptospermum scoparium)
- Five finger (Pseudopanax arboreus)

Evergreen hydrangea (Dichroa versicolor)

Also consider:
- Blue cape flower (Plumbago capensis)
- Californian lilac (Ceanothus papillosus)

Shrubs, trees and palms
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Wonder tree (Idesia polycarpa)**

Deciduous pyramidal tree to 20m tall and up to 15m wide with male and female flowers on different trees. Female trees produce fragrant yellow green flowers followed by bunches of bright red berries that hang on the tree all winter. Seed is bird-spread. Invades natural bush areas and crowds out other species.

---

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Puriri (Vitex lucens)**

Also consider:
- Kaikomako (*Pennantia corymbosa*)
- Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*)
- Rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*)

**Ilawarra flame tree (Brachychiton acerifolius)**

Also consider:
- Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*)
Deciduous hardwood tree growing to 15 metres with leaflets that are hairless above and have densely hairy veins below. Male and female catkins are followed by clusters of sticky rust-coloured fruit with hard, thick-shelled nuts that contain seeds. Long lived species that grows into the canopy and shades out native species.

Also consider:
- Kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)
- Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- Hickory or pecan (*Carya* species)

Also consider:
- Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*)
- Titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

**Lantana** *(Lantana camara)*

Prickly, many-branched, scrambling shrub to 3m tall with pungent smelling mid- to dark-green leaves. Clusters of flowers, generally yellow and pink but sometimes red or orange, are followed by bird-spread fruit that ripens from green to a glossy black. Also spreads by suckering and forms dense colonies crowding out native plants and restricting access.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Taurepo** *(Rhabdothamnus solandri)*

Also consider:
- Coastal tree daisy *(Olearia solandri)*
- Heketara *(Olearia rani)*

**Flame-of-the-woods** *(Ixora coccinea)*

Also consider:
- Australian fuchsia *(Correa pulchella)*
- Common correa *(Correa reflexa)*
- Lion's tail *(Leonitis ocymifolia)*
Himalayan honeysuckle (Leycesteria formosa)

Deciduous or semi-evergreen perennial shrub to 2 or more metres with heart-shaped leaves and straight, round, hairless stems that are hollow and green when young, but become woody. Drooping spikes of white and purple funnel-shaped flowers are followed by juicy, dark brownish-purple, bird-spread berries. Rapidly forms dense thickets that crowd out native species.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Taupata (Coprosma repens)

Also consider:
Kawakawa (Macropiper excelsum)

Pink tree broom (Carmichaelia glabrescens)

Also consider:
Taurepo (Rhabdothamnus solandri)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Treple privet & Chinese privet (Ligustrum spp)

Evergreen trees growing to 10 metres (tree privet - shown here in berry) and 7 metres (Chinese privet - shown in flower). Tree privet has dark green glossy leaves while Chinese privet has small, dull green leaves with wavy edges. Both species have spikes of white flowers and black, bird-spread berries. Crowds out native species in natural areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Kamahi (Weinmannia racemosa)

Also consider:
Broadleaf (Griselinia littoralis)
Hangehange (Geniostoma rupestre)
Puahou (Pseudopanax arboreus)

Port wine magnolia (Michelia figo)

Also consider:
Bottlebrush (Callistemon pollandri 'Red Clusters')
Camellia sasanqua
Michelia yunnanensis

Shrubs, trees and palms
**Wattles (Paraserianthes & Acacia species)**

Brush wattle (*Paraserianthus lophantha*).

Evergreen shrub to small tree with densely hairy, ribbed twigs and feathery blue-green leaves. Numerous pale yellow, brush-like flowers are followed by smooth surfaced pods containing black seeds. Invades natural areas, forming dense stands and displacing native trees.

---

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Kowhai**

(*Sophora microphylla*)

Also consider:

Green mikimiki (*Coprosma virescens*)
Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*)
Kotukutuku (*Fuchsia excorticata*)

---

**Lemon bottlebrush**

(*Callistemon paludosus*)

Also consider:

Blue jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)
Cajeput tree (*Melaleuca linariifolia*)

---

**Shrubs, trees and palms**
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Phoenix palm** (*Phoenix canariensis*)

Hardy, slow-growing palm to 18 metres tall with a single thick upright trunk and stiff leaves forming a crown up to 4 metres wide. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by clusters of orange-yellow, date-like, ornamental bird-spread fruit. Crowds out native species in natural areas. Barbs on young fronds can impale people and animals, requiring surgical removal.

---

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Nikau** (*Rhopalostylis sapida*)

Also consider:
- Wheki ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*)
- Black tree fern (*Cyathea medullaris*)

---

**Cabbage tree** (*Cordyline australis*)

Also consider:
- Soft tree fern (*Cyathea smithii*)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Wild cherries (Prunus species)

Taiwan cherry is a vase-shaped deciduous tree growing to 8 metres tall with pink bell-shaped flowers emerging before leaves in spring. Rum cherry grows to 20 metres tall and has long clusters of small white flowers at the ends of the branches in spring, followed by black berries. Both cherries invade bush areas and crowd out native plants.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Puriri (Vitex lucens)

Also consider:
Kotukutuku (Fuchsia excorticata)
Wineberry (Aristotelia serrata)

Crab apple (Malus floribunda)

Also consider:
Weeping silver pear (Pyrus salicifolia ‘pendula’)
Kniphofia hybrid

Shrubs, trees and palms
Evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*)

Evergreen tree growing to 10 metres with oval green leaves that have two small holes at the base either side of the midrib and corresponding bumps on the topside (the ‘buckthorns’). Inconspicuous flowers are followed by bright red, bird-spread berries. Aggressive invader of coastal cliffs and forest margins and can form dense colonies that crowd out native plants.

Matipou (*Myrsine australis*)

Also consider:
- Ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*)
- Corokia *buddleioides*

Camellia sasanqua ‘yuletide’

Also consider:
- Weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*)
- Grewia *occidentalis*
**False acacia (Robinia pseudoacacia)**

Deciduous tree to 25 metres tall with thin leaflets that are dark green above and light green below. Fragrant, white, pea-like flowers are followed by shiny, flat pods that burst to release seeds. Spreads vigorously by root suckering and stump sprouting. Forms dense thickets that crowd out native species.

Also consider:
- Mapou (Myrsine australis)
- Kaikomako (Pennantia corymbosa)

**Claret ash (Fraxinus angustifolia)**

Also consider:
- Honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos)
- Blue jacaranda (Jacaranda mimosifolia)

**Manatu (Plagianthus regius)**

Also consider:
- Mapou (Myrsine australis)
- Kaikomako (Pennantia corymbosa)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

**Woolly nightshade** (*Solanum mauritianum*)

Small tree growing to 10 metres with large, furry, pungent, greyish leaves. Clusters of purple flowers with yellow centres develop into yellow, marble-sized, bird-spread fruit. Invades natural areas and crowds out native plants. Moderately toxic to humans and livestock, and the hairs from the leaves can irritate skin, eyes, nose and throat.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

**Tarata** (*Pittosporum eugenioides*)

Also consider:
- Broadleaf (Griselinia littoralis)
- Red mapou (Myrsine australis)

**Blue jacaranda** (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

Also consider:
- *Tibouchina granulosa*
- Round leafed mint bush (*Prostanthera rotundifolium*)

Shrubs, trees and palms
**Rice paper plant** *(Tetrapanax papyriferus)*

Evergreen shrub or small tree to 2 metres tall with large, palm-like leaves and thick stems that are covered in fine, dusty hairs. Clusters of white, woolly, ball-shaped flowers are followed by clusters of round, black berries. Also spreads by suckering. Forms dense thickets that crowd out native species in natural areas.

---

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Whau** *(Entelia arborescens)*

Also consider:
- Scented or weeping broom *(Carmichaelia odorata* or *C. stevensonii)*
- Five-finger *(Pseudopanax arboreus)*

**Cape reed** *(Elegia capensis)*

Also consider:
- *Restio tetraphyllus*

---

**Shrubs, trees and palms**
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Chinese fan palm (Trachycarpus fortunei)

Palm growing to 12 metres tall with large circular leaves and trunk covered in coarse fibre. Flowers emerging from a packet-like bud are followed by blue round or oblong bird-spread fruits in summer. Establishes as mature trees in native forests, replacing the native nikau and outcompeting native understorey plants. As a seedling it is very difficult to tell apart from nikau.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Cabbage tree (Cordyline australis)

Also consider:
Ti kapu (Cordyline indivisa)

Nikau (Rhopalostylis sapida)

Also consider:
Tree fern (Dicksonia fibrosa)

Shrubs, trees and palms
**Hornwort** *(Ceratophyllum demersum)*

Submerged freshwater plant with finely divided leaves with toothed edges making them rough to the touch. New plants form from each piece of brittle stem. Rapidly invades still and flowing waters, crowding out native species, and blocking irrigation and drainage channels and hydro dams.

**Egeria** *(Egeria densa)*

Freshwater bottom-rooted herb to 5 metres tall. Produces white flowers just above the waterline. Stems can take root and form new colonies. Rapidly invades waterways, crowding out native species, and blocking irrigation and drainage channels, and hydro dams.

**Water hyacinth** *(Eichhornia crassipes)*

Free-floating perennial of home aquaria, ponds and slow-moving streams. Leaves have distinctive bladder-like swollen leaf petioles giving buoyancy. Spikes of up to 10 lilac to bluish-purple flowers with a distinct yellow spot. May rapidly invade and choke ponds and slow-moving water. Seeds and plants dispersed by water, machinery and people.

Notify MAF Biosecurity if you find this plant.
GARDEN ESCAPEES

Elodea (Elodea canadensis)
Comparatively low-growing submerged plant, easily confused with other oxygen weeds (e.g., egeria and lagarosiphon). Leaves arranged in whorls of three, are 6-12mm long and usually rounded at the tip. Not as invasive as other submerged species, but not recommended.

Lagarosiphon (Lagarosiphon major)
Submerged bottom-rooting perennial. The leaves are arranged spirally around the stem and are curved backwards or downwards. Produces tiny, pinkish flowers. Rapidly forms dense mats that shade out native species, and block irrigation and drainage channels and hydroelectric dams.

Parrot’s feather (Myriophyllum aquaticum)
Perennial freshwater plant with distinctive, feathery, blue-green leaves in whorls of five to six, each divided into 20-30 leaflets. Takes root at the bottom of waterways and forms dense sprawling mats that clog channels.
**Mexican water lily** (*Nymphaea mexicana*)

Similar to other waterlilies, but heart-shaped floating leaves often have dark-brown flecks on the upper surface. Flowers are pale-yellow with many petals. Spreads by underwater rhizomes and extensive fleshy stems with banana-shaped tubers. Forms dense mats of floating leaves that clog waterways, crowding out other plants and preventing recreational use. *Nymphaea alba* is also a problem.

**Salvinia** (*Salvinia molesta*)

Free-floating fern forming dense mats in home aquaria, ponds, lakes and dams, shading out species underneath. Adult leaves folded and overlapping, light green or brown-green with the upper surface densely covered in hairs. Lower leaves look like roots. Fragments are spread by water, machinery and people. Notify MAF Biosecurity if you find this plant.

**California rush** (*Schoenoplectus californicus*)

A rush up to 3m tall growing on edges of ponds and lakes up to depth of 1m. Tall, dark green stems that are somewhat triangular in cross-section, and forms an open flowerhead of woolly, bristly tan or brown flowers. Invasive and crowds out native species.
PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Water milfoil  *(Myriophyllum propinquum)*

Water milfoil is a native alternative to aquatic weeds such as parrot’s feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

Native milfoil (*Myriophyllum robustum*) is also a good alternative.

Red pond weed  *Potamogeton cheesemanii*

Red pond weed is a native alternative to floating aquatic weeds such as salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

Another native alternative is swamp lily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*).

Raupo  *Typha orientalis*

Raupo is a native alternative to marginal aquatic and wetland weeds such as California rush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*).

Acorus species and phormiums (flaxes) are also good for margins of waterways, as are astelia and carex species.
## Groundcovers and fillers

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## Grasses, bulbs and ferns

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## Climbers and vines

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## Trees and palms

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## Aquatic weeds

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