# PLANT ME INSTEAD!





CANTERBURY & OTAGO

### **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to the following people and organisations who helped with this booklet: for input and advice - members and staff of Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and Forest and Bird in Canterbury and Otago, staff from Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, Otago Regional Council, Hurunui District Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Timaru District Council, and QEII National Trust, Jon Sullivan (Lincoln University), Colin Meurk and Peter Williams (Landcare Research), and Joe Cartman; for photos - John Barkla, Jeremy Rolfe, Peter de Lange, John Smith-Dodsworth, John Liddle (Liddle Wonder Nurseries), Wayne Bennett, and others. Special thanks to Alan McDonald for his valuable input at every stage of this project.

> 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 eco-sourced native species.

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### Get rid of a weed, plant me instead!

In Canterbury and Otago, 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 nonnative, that can be used to replace these weeds in your garden. If the species listed are not be available at your local garden centre, ask them to source them for you. For native plants, try your local native plant nursery.

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 and for Canterbury www.ECan.govt.nz/weeds



#### 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.



#### Heather (Calluna vulgaris)



Peterson

This low-growing shrub has clusters of tiny bell flowers of pink, purple and white, and small overlapping leaves on wiry stems. Heather produces abundant seed, spreads easily, and is hard to control once it spreads.

As long as there is sufficient sunlight, heather grows well, even in harsh conditions, carpeting large areas and excluding any low-growing vegetation.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





1)

Also consider: Hebe odora Golden cottonwood (Ozothamnus leptophyllus)

Groundcovers

and fillers

#### **Breath of heaven** (Coleonema album)



#### S Pig's ear (Cotyledon orbiculata)



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#### NZ ice plant (Disphyma australe)





Also consider: Native spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*) Creeping pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia axillaris*)

#### This grey-green succulent has a distinctive red tinge to the leaf edges. It is low growing but has a flower stem up to 50 centimetres tall with clusters of orange flowers hanging down.

Pig's ear thrives particularly well in sunny exposed coastal areas, and can colonise large areas, displacing other plants.

#### *Dahlia* hybrids eg 'Suzie Dahl'



Dahlias are ideal for sunny areas but will need some water when flowering.



#### Montbretia (Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora)



Montbretia forms clumps and each flower stem has dozens of flowers.

The underground corms divide readily, and new plants can even form from discarded fragments of the corms and the root system, so montbretia can spread very quickly. The spreading corms can contribute to erosion, siltation, and the breakdown of stream banks. Take care when disposing of montbretia.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Also consider: NZ iris (*Libertia ixioides*) Bush lily (*Astelia fragrans*)

Groundcovers

and fillers

Chrysanthemum hybrids (Dendranthema x grandiflorum)



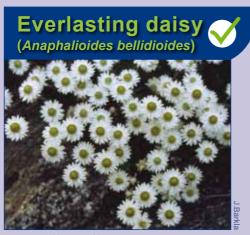
#### Mexican daisy (Erigeron karvinskianus)



This sprawling perennial daisy is tough and vigorous.

Unfortunately, it produces masses of viable seed and spreads too easily, and can form smothering mats, replacing other low-growing species. Mexican daisy is a particular concern in natural areas such as bluffs and coastal zones.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Also consider: NZ iris (*Libertia grandiflora*) Linen flax (*Linum monogynum*)

#### Kingfisher daisy (Felicia amelloides)



Groundcovers ( and fillers

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ewis

#### Aluminium plant (Galeobdolon luteum)



Aluminium plant has distinctive silvery patches on the leaves and may have yellow flowers. It is a groundcover plant that survives well in shaded areas.

Aluminium plant spreads vigorously to form a thick, invasive, smothering mat. New plants easily establish from fragments.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





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For shaded moist sites. Also consider: Hook sedge (*Uncinia uncinata*) Native bidibidi (*Acaena* species)





Also consider: Hosta 'Lemon Lime' Epimedium x versicolor hybrids

Groundcovers and fillers

#### Tutsan (Hypericum androsaemum)



This hardy shrub has yellow flowers followed by red berries that ripen to black. The leaves may turn red and fall in the autumn. Tutsan can withstand a range of conditions, including shade.

Tutsan grows quickly and the seeds are widely spread by birds. It crowds out species that are lower growing.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Also consider: Native bidibidi (Acaena species) Karamu (Coprosma robusta)

#### Lenten rose (Helleborus orientalis)

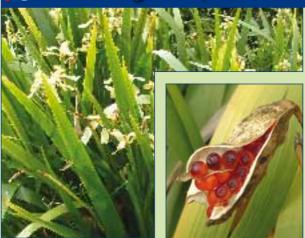


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Be aware: like tutsan, hellebores are poisonous. Also consider: Cushion spurge (*Euphorbia polychroma*)



#### Stinking iris (Iris foetidissima)



This iris has dull yellow flowers followed by lots of scarlet seed capsules which are spread by birds. The leaves smell foul when crushed.

Stinking iris tolerates a range of conditions, including shade, and will form dense clumps that crowd out other vegetation.

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7)

Lewis

Also consider: NZ iris (Libertia grandiflora) NZ blueberry (Dianella nigra)



# Daylily hybrid eg 'Amber Glow'





Also consider: Hemerocallis 'Stella de Oro' Helleborus x 'Yellow Button' or any of a wide range of tulips

#### Russell lupin (Lupinus polyphyllus)

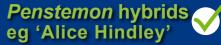




Russell lupins have flower spikes up to 60 centimetres long, crowded with colourful flowers. Lots of seed that is viable for many years is produced. It can change the course and nature of riverbeds by stabiliing gravel bank. This has devastating effects on endangered native birds, making it difficult for them to find food and nesting sites, and leaving them vulnerable to predators.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**







Also consider: Delphinium hybrids incl. Pacific Hybrids Veronica spicata hybrids Rosmarinus officinalis ' Tuscan Blue'

Also consider: Red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*) Mountain flax (*Phormium cookianum*) Linen flax (*Linum monogynum*)





#### **Tradescantia** (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)



Lewis

This dark green groundcover plant does not produce seed in New Zealand, but even small fragments of stem can take root and form a new plant.

Tradescantia grows quickly, even in shaded areas, and forms dense mats smothering other plants, taking over gardens and reserves. It can cause dermatitis in dogs.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





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Groundcovers

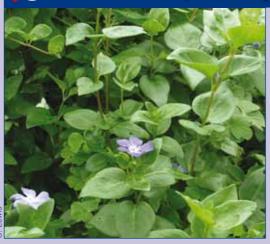
and fillers

Also consider: Little hard fern (*Blechnum penna-marina*) Pratia (*Pratia angulata*) Veronica hybrids eg 'Oxford Blue'



Also consider: Heuchera sanguinea hybrids incl 'Amethyst', 'Green Spice'

#### Periwinkle (Vinca major)



This is a scrambling perennial with stems that produce roots when they come in contact with the soil, forming very dense carpet-like mats. The leaves are a glossy green and the flowers blue-violet.

Periwinkle is very vigorous and smothers other plants. Once it becomes established, it is extremely difficult to get rid of.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**



Also consider: Creeping fuchsia (Fuchsia procumbens) Pratia (Pratia angulata)

#### Heuchera hybrids eg 'Chocolate Ruffles'



Groundcovers

and fillers

/ww.cfgphoto.cor

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Bomatea (Bomarea caldasii / B. multiflora)



Bomarea has pendulous bunches of 15 to 20 flowers that are red on the outside, and yellow with red spots inside.

It has fleshy underground rhizomes and long pointed leaves. Bomarea is shade and frost tolerant and fast growing. Bomarea vines grow into the tree canopy and form large masses, which overtop and smother the supporting trees.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





**f** 

Climbers

and vines

Also consider: Yellow clematis (*Clematis foetida*)





Also consider: Chilean bellflower (*Lapageria rosea*) *Clematis* hybrids incl 'Etoile Rose'

#### Old man's beard (Clematis vitalba)



This vine is usually found growing up trees. It has small white flowers from December to March, followed by seeds with fluffy tails. Old man's beard usually has 5 leaflets on each stem (most other clematis species have 3).

Old man's beard overtops other plants, forming a thick blanket that can kill them.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





White clematis (Clematis paniculata) Yellow clematis (Clematis foetida)





Clematis 'Markhams Pink' Clematis 'Aljionuska'

www.cfgphoto.cc



#### 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.

If not kept under constant watch, ivy can smother and kill other plants from ground level to the tree tops.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





**Climbers** 

and vines

Also consider: White clematis (Clematis paniculata) White rata (Metrosideros diffusa) - only suitable in high rainfall areas





Also consider: Carolina jasmine (Gelsemium sempervirens) - frost tender



#### 🗡 Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica)



Honeysuckle is a vine with pleasantly scented flowers and tough, wiry stems. Birds spread the black fruit but honeysuckle also spreads easily from fragments.

Honeysuckle uses other plants for support. Because it grows so vigorously, it can smother and weigh down shrubs and small trees.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**



Also consider: Small white clematis (Clematis forsteri) White clematis (Clematis paniculata)



Also consider: Carolina Jasmine (Gelsemium sempervirens) - frost tender Honeysuckle (Lonicera splendida)

> Climbers and vines





#### **Banana passionfruit & Yellow passionfruit**



### Passiflora tripartita and P. pinnatistipula

The vines, leaves, and hanging fruit of these passionfruit species are very similar. The banana passionfruit has banana-shaped fruit that turn from green to yellow; the yellow passionfruit are round. Yellow passionfruit is mainly found on Banks Peninsula. Both these passionfruit climb into trees, which they then smother.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





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**Climbers** 

and vines

Also consider: NZ jasmine (Parsonsia heterophylla)



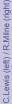


For something different, try growing a Camellia hybrid such as 'Yuletide' or 'Appleblossom' as an espalier.



#### Chilean flame creeper (Tropaeolum speciesus





This vine looks delicate with its small five-fingered leaves and thin stems, but is actually hardy. In winter all the above ground vegetation dies back to a tough root system, to grow vigorously again the next year. The flowers are scarlet and are followed by blue bird-spread berries. Chilean flame creeper climbs high into trees, depriving them of vital sunlight.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Only suitable in high rainfall areas. Also consider: Native passionfruit (*Passiflora tetrandra*)



Also consider: Chilean bellflower (*Lapageria rosea*)







#### Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)

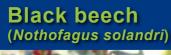


C. Howell, DOC

This deciduous tree grows up to 20 metres tall and produces large quantities of seeds; the winged seed capsules fall in a 'helicopter' motion.

Sycamore can establish even in shade, and then forms dense stands that crowd out other species.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**







17)

Shrubs

and trees

Also consider: Mountain beech (*Nothofagus solandri* var. *cliffortioides*) Ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius*)

#### Acer rubrum 'Columnare'





Also consider: Fullmoon maple (*Acer japonicum*) Norway maple hybrids (*Acer platanoides*)

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#### Darwin's barberry (Berberis darwinii)



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### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

#### Mountain holly (Olearia ilicifolia)





Also consider: Matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*) Mingimingi (*Coprosma propinqua*) This dense, dark green shrub is prickly and has small 'holly'shaped leaves. The orange/ yellow flowers are followed by berries which are spread by birds.

Darwin's barberry will survive even in low light and forms dense colonies, displacing other plants.

#### Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price'





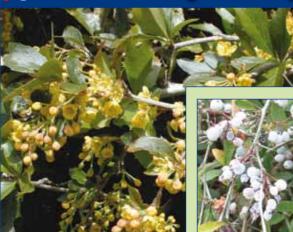
**18**)

Shrubs

and trees



#### Common hedge barberry (Berberis glaucocarpa)



### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





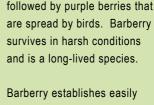
**19**)

Shrubs

and trees

Also consider: Mountain holly (*Olearia ilicifolia*) Twiggy tree daisy (*Olearia virgata*)





A shrub with tough woody stems and sharp spines. The smelly yellow flowers are

in relatively open spaces and where there is low growing vegetation and overtops lower growing plants.

#### Orange blossom (Choisya ternata)





Also consider: Viburnum tinus hybrids Genista pilosa hybrid incl ' Vancouver Gold' - a low-growing shrub



#### Buddleia (Buddleja davidii)



Buddleia is a many-stemmed shrub which can be up to 4 metres tall. The leaves are dull green and hairy underneath. Spikes of fragrant blue to purple flowers are followed by numerous wind-spread seeds.

Buddleia forms dense colonies and can invade exotic forestry. It is a problem in river beds and can alter the waterflow, causing the build up of silt and flooding.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**







Also consider: California lilac hybrids (*Ceanothus* hybrids)



Also consider: Helichrysum lanceolatum Koromiko (Hebe salicifolia) Mountain ribbonwood (Hoheria Iyallii)

Shrubs ( and trees



#### Boneseed (Chrysanthemoides monilifera)

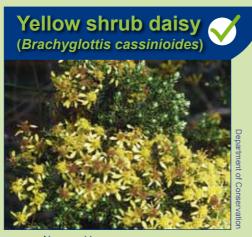


#### subspecies monilifera

Boneseed is a hardy shrub which can grow up to 3 metres tall. It has leathery toothed leaves and bright yellow daisy-like flowers.

Boneseed is found mainly in coastal areas and thrives even on poor soil. It can spread quickly and forms dense stands, displacing desirable plants.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**



Also consider: Kowhai (Sophora 'Dragons Gold') Prostrate kowhai (Sophora prostrata) Tauhinu (Ozothamnus leptophylla)





Also consider: X Halimiocistus wintonensis 'Merrist Wood Cream'



and trees



#### **Cotoneaster** species



# Department of Conservation

#### Cotoneaster franchetii, C. glaucophyllus, and C. simonsii

These cotoneasters are really tough bushes. The small white/ pink flower clusters are followed by scarlet berries in bunches of up to 60 berries. For more details on the cotoneasters and how to tell them apart see the cotoneaster sheet on www.ecan.govt.nz/ weeds. Dense cotoneaster stands form and crowd out other plants.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Also consider: Coprosma propinqua Coprosma tayloriae Weeping mapou (Myrsine divaricata)

#### David viburnum (Viburnum davidii)



Also consider: Viburnum tinus hybrids incl 'Eve Price'.





#### Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)



Hawthorn is often found as a prickly hedge, but left to grow wild it forms a tree up to 10 metres tall. In either form, hawthorn is very tough. It has white flowers followed by red berries that are widely spread by birds.

Hawthorn crowds out other plant species and can form dense thickets, blocking access and invading new areas.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**



For Otago, use kanono (Coprosma grandifolia) Also consider: Whiteywood (Melicytus ramiflorus) Lancewood (Pseudopanax crassifolius)

# Dogwood hybrids (Cornus kousa hybrid)



Also consider: Japanese cherry hybrids Prunus accolade hybrids Cornus florida hybrids



ewis

#### 23) Shrubs and trees

#### Spanish heath (Erica lusitanica)



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This woody shrub grows to 2 metres tall and has small, dense, needle-like leaves on woody stems. It produces masses of small, white, bell-shaped flowers and the profusion of small seeds are spread by wind.

Spanish heath thrives in poor or acidic soils and forms dense stands outcompeting other species.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Also consider: Hebe cultivars Tauhinu (*Pomaderris phylicifolia*)

#### Lavendula angustifolia 'Munstead'



Shrubs

and trees

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R.Milne (inset)

ewis /

#### Spindletree (Euonymus europaeus)



Spindletree is a multi-branched deciduous tree up to 6 metres tall. Small greenish-yellow flowers are followed by pink four-lobed capsules that expose the orange fruit. The seeds are bird-spread and spindletree also spreads by suckering.

Spindletree survives in a range of conditions and forms dense stands in sun or in shade, crowding out other species.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Also consider: Akeake (Dodonaea viscosa) Karamu (Coprosma lucida)



#### Shrubs and trees

#### Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder'





Also consider: Japanese flowering dogwood hybrids *Cornus kousa* hybrids Flowering dogwood hybrids (*Cornus florida* hybrids)



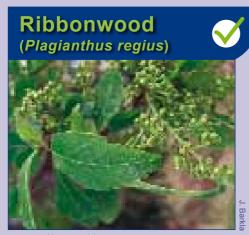
#### Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)



This deciduous tree with a silver grey trunk can grow to 30 metres tall. Each leaf is made up of nine or more leaflets. The narrow, flattened and partly-winged seeds hang in clusters and are wind-spread.

Ash is frost-tolerant and grows fast, quickly overtopping other plants.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Also consider: Hall's totara (*Podocarpus hallii*) Marble leaf (*Carpodetus serratus*) Five finger (*Pseudopanax arboreus*)

### Fraxinus angustifolia hybrid 'Raywood'



Shrubs

and trees

26)



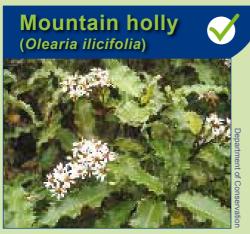
#### Holly (Ilex aquifolium)



Holly is an evergreen shrub or small tree that has glossy, dark green leaves with prickly, deeply serrated edges. The bright red berries are found on female plants and are spread by birds.

Holly is shade tolerant, and because of its dense green foliage, it blocks light from any plants growing underneath.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





27) Shrubs

and trees

Also consider: Broadleaf (Griselinia littoralis) Kohuhu (Pittosporum tenuifolium) Camellia hybrid eg Camellia sasanqua 'Yuletide'



Also consider: Holly osmanthus hybrids (Osmanthus heterophyllus hybrids)



#### Wild plums (Prunus species)



Most garden plum trees are named varieties that produce fruit year after year.

However, wild plums (which are also sometimes called cherry plums) are those that have escaped in the past. The fruit are relatively small and the stones are spread by birds. Wild plums can be found scattered around roadsides and in parks and reserves. They can form dense stands, shading out other species.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Needs a relatively sheltered site Also consider: Narrow-leaved lacebark (*Hoheria angustifolia*)

#### Yoshina cherry (Prunus x yedoensis)



Also consider: Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) - but don't plant this too close to buildings







#### Flowering currant (Ribes sanguineum)



This erect, deciduous, pleasant smelling shrub grows to 2 metres tall and has dense light green foliage. The pale pink to deep red flowers are followed by blue-black berries that are spread by birds.

Flowering currant forms dense thickets, particularly on stream banks, forest margins and clearings. It crowds out desirable species.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





29 Shrubs

and trees

Also consider: Hebe cultivars Red matipo (*Myrsine australis*)

#### Star magnolia (Magnolia stellata 'Rosea')



Also consider: Magnolia stellata 'King Rose'



Plant Protection Society (inse

#### Elderberry (Sambucus nigra)



This is a small tree growing to 6 metres which has dense clusters of small white flowers that smell unpleasant. The abundant shiny, black berries are very attractive to birds, so the seeds are spread widely.

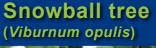
Elderberry grows fast and can form dense stands, overtopping and displacing other species.

### **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





Mountain ribbonwood (Hoheria Iyallii) Whiteywood (Melicytus ramiflorus) NZ myrtle (Lophomyrtus obcordata)







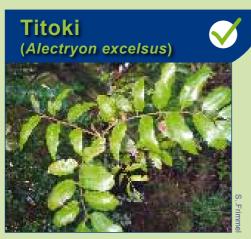
Also consider: White flowering camellias (*Camellia sasanqua*) Orange blossom (*Choiysa ternata*)





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# **PLANT ME INSTEAD...**





**31)** Shrubs

and trees

Also consider: Lemonwood (Pittosporum eugenioides) Narrow-leaved lacebark (Hoheria angustifolia)

Rowan trees can be up to 10 metres tall. The leaves are made up of up to 8 pairs of leaflets and they turn golden in autumn. There are clusters of white flowers followed by red bird-spread berries. Rowan also spreads by suckering.

Rowan will grow in deep shade and can form dense stands, crowding out other species.

#### Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price'





Also consider: Flowering dogwood (Cornus florida hybrids) Japanese flowering dogwood (Cornus kousa hybrids)



#### Groundcovers and fillers

Heather	Calluna vulgaris	1
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