

Seed collection project

Through the Significant Natural Areas project it became apparent that boosting the supply of suitable locally sourced native plants would be necessary if there was to be an adequate volume of plant material available for restoration projects in lowland south Marlborough. Demand for plants is increasing, with many private restoration projects either protecting and restoring small remnant areas like wetlands, or starting from scratch to generate new areas from bare ground. The Tui to Town natural habitat restoration project is helping to stimulate this activity on the Wairau Plain area by providing information and for larger projects, funding assistance.

The Significant Natural Areas project has provided an opportunity to identify remaining pockets of indigenous plants on private land that provide valuable seed sources to generate future material for restoration planting. A pilot seed collection project was initiated in 2006 focusing on totara seed collection. This pilot has since been extended in 2007/2008 (with the assistance of some additional funding by the central government Biodiversity Fund), to include a wider range of plants including kowhai, kanuka, flax, cabbage tree, mahoe, kohuhu, ngaio, broadleaf, lancewood and matai. Funding is available for the autumn 2009 seed collection period and ideally the programme will be ongoing to ensure that supply can meet demand.



Seed collection net under totara tree in south Marlborough

A co-operative arrangement with local plant nurseries has been developed whereby Council collects and provides the seeds (courtesy of the access granted by private landowners to seed sources), and the nursery propagates, grows and sells the plants. This helps to ensure that appropriate locally sourced native plants are available in Marlborough nurseries to service the restoration of natural areas in the modified lowland environments.

Species	Year
Totara (t)	2006 - 2008
Matai (m)	2008
Kowhai (kw)	2007-2008
Kanuka (ka)	2007 - 2008
Cabbage tree (c)	2008
Flax (f)	2008
Pokaka (p)	2008
Ngaio (ng)	2008
Kohuhu (ko)	2008
Mahoe (ma)	2008
Broadleaf (b)	2008
Lancewood (l)	2006 - 2008

