

## IV USING THIS GUIDE

South Marlborough boasts hundreds of indigenous plant species, so selecting those to include in this Guide was no easy task. To ensure maximum success for planting projects, the lists were narrowed down to 127 plants that are widely-known, should be available from local nurseries (especially those specialising in natives) and - if well planted and cared for – can be grown successfully.

Many other species are, however suitable for native restoration projects. For those tackling large-scale projects, interested in propagating or ecosourcing their own plant material or especially enthusiastic about the flora of South Marlborough, comprehensive lists of species suitable for South Marlborough revegetation below 500 metres (on which this Guide was based) are available from the Department of Conservation office in Renwick.

Once you have clarified the purpose of your planting and studied conditions at your chosen site, the following lists can be used to select suitable plant species according to ecological district, site conditions and personal priorities (such as mature height, attractiveness to birds and rarity).

### THE PLANT LISTS

Plants are listed under three types of area; inland and lowland South Marlborough, coastal South Marlborough and freshwater wetlands. There is also a list of threatened plants.

Along with each plant's scientific and common name, the lists provide information on growing characteristics including frost tenderness, sunlight and moisture preferences and attractiveness as a food source for birds and insects.

Also indicated is the ecological district where each plant would have naturally occurred and could therefore be planted (numbers 1-8, see map on page 33). Ideally, propagation material would be sourced from wild plants within that ecological district, but unfortunately this will not always be possible due to localised extinction.

In that case, two broader zones for ecosourcing plant material are suggested. Inland Zone A includes the Waihopai and Medway (ecological districts 2 and 3), and Lowland Zone B includes Hillersden, Flaxbourne, Wither Hills, Blenheim, Grassmere and Kekerengu (ecological districts 1,4,5,6,7 and 8).

### **Inland and Lowland South Marlborough**

This list covers all of South Marlborough, with the exception of coastal and wetland sites. Micro-site information including frost tolerance, sunlight preference, and moisture preference will help identify which species are most suitable for your planting.

### **Coastal South Marlborough**

The coastal list provides information on the type of coastal environment plants will be suitable for, including fore dune, upper beach, shrublands, coastal margin/forest and bluffs. The plants listed have been especially selected for their ability to survive salty conditions.

### **South Marlborough freshwater wetlands**

Careful planning and design helps create a successful wetland, and professional advice is recommended. Resource consent will be required for damming or diverting water.

The wetland list is arranged according to species' preferred proximity to water. Beyond the wet fringe margins, the higher ground can be used as a buffer zone. Species suitable for creating the buffer zone can be chosen from those on the general planting list that show a preference for a moist growing site.

### **Threatened plants**

South Marlborough is home to several of New Zealand's threatened species. Of particular note are those endemic only to South Marlborough such as the flowering tree brooms, *Carmichaelia stevensonii*, *C. muritai*, *C. carmichaeliae* and *C. glabrescens* (the only one currently not threatened). Many of these are very specific in where they occur, for example, in the wild, *C. carmichaeliae* only occurs north of the Awatere Fault, and *C. glabrescens* only south of the Awatere Fault. In restoration it is important to recognise these geographic areas. Extra care needs to be taken when collecting material and it is advisable to first approach DOC.

The threatened plants included in this Guide were selected as being commercially available and relatively easy to grow. For a comprehensive list, refer to "Threatened Plants of South Marlborough; a Field Guide" by Cathy Jones and Ingrid Hutzler, available from DOC, South Marlborough.