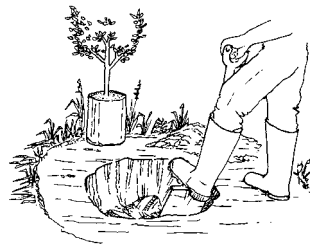
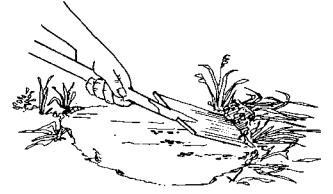


The Good Start Planting Guide

Decide on the plants' location – Select a site similar in position to where the plants would naturally grow (e.g. ridge, hillslope, streamside), and space them appropriately – see over.

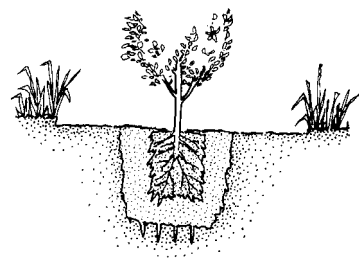
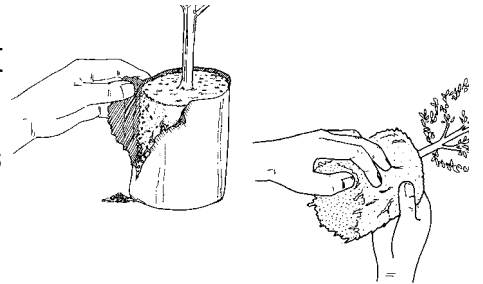
Skim any grass or weeds off the top of the planting site using a spade or grubber. If left they will compete with and could rapidly smother the plant.



Prepare the planting hole

The hole should always be larger than the plant container or root ball. Once the hole is large enough, loosen the soil on the sides and in the bottom of the hole, to allow the plants' roots to penetrate the soil more easily. The hole should be deep enough so the collar (base of the stem where the roots start) is slightly below (1cm) ground level on most sites, and slightly above (1-2cm) on wet or saturated sites.

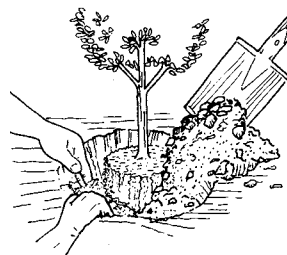
Remove the plant from its pot, plastic bag or root trainer carefully retaining as much soil around the roots as possible. If the roots are tightly bound, gently tease them apart. Root bound plants are slower growing and take longer to become well established.



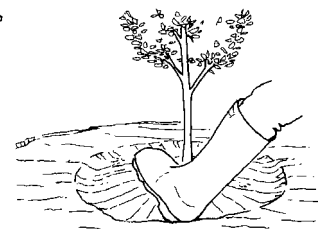
Place the plant in the hole – so the stem is

the correct depth in relation to the adjacent soil surface. Before placing the plant in the hole, **apply fertiliser** if there is some available, to give the plant an extra growing boost – either 1 tablet or about a desertspoonful of granules. Mix the fertiliser with the loose soil in the bottom of the hole. Don't spread the fertiliser on the soil surface as this will just promote more weed growth.

Gradually add soil into the hole around the roots, firming each layer with your hands.



Firm the soil well after the hole is filled with the heel of your boot, leaving a slight depression to catch any rain or water run-off.



Spread mulch around the plant if available – to help reduce water loss and the growth of weeds, and provide some nutrients, e.g. using bark chips, newspaper, old woollen carpet, or lawn clippings. Ensure the mulch is not placed against the plant stem. Do not mulch in wet areas, where the soil is already saturated.

Add water to the planting hole in dry areas, if it is available.

The Good Start Planting Guide

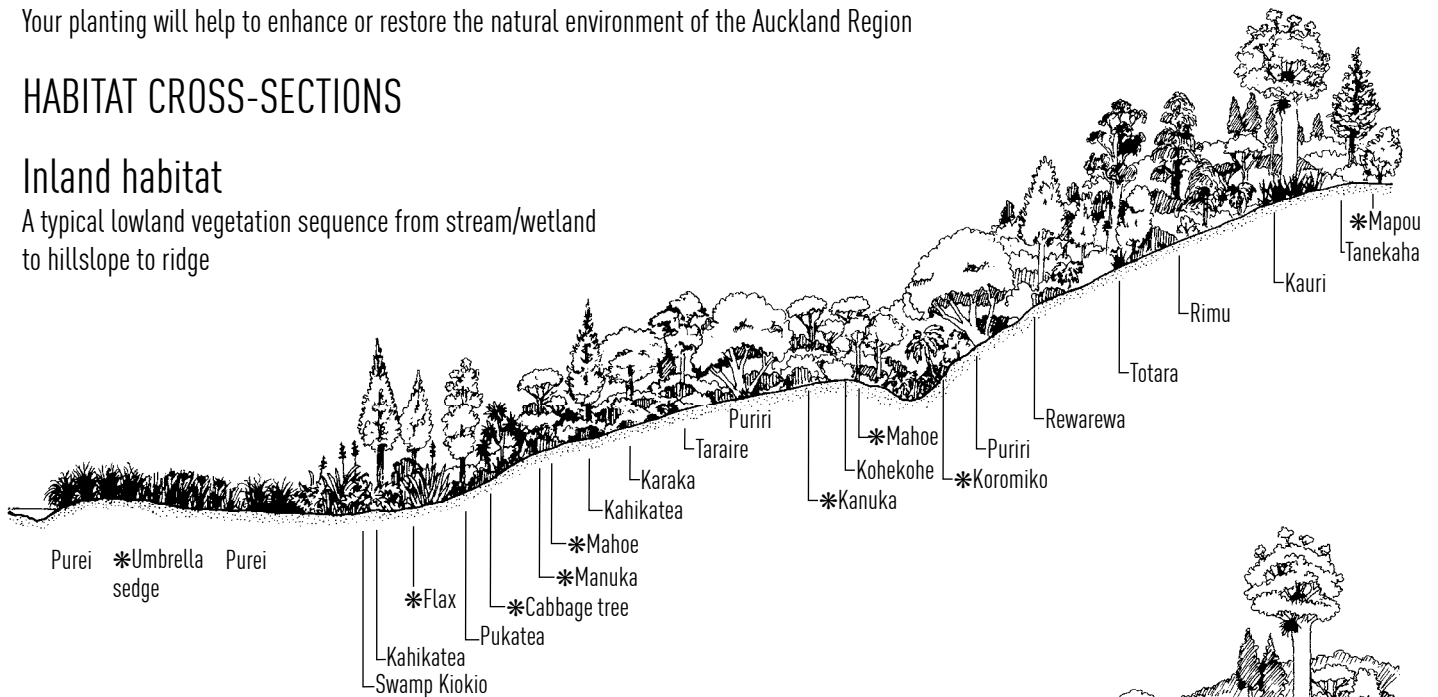
AIM

Your planting will help to enhance or restore the natural environment of the Auckland Region

HABITAT CROSS-SECTIONS

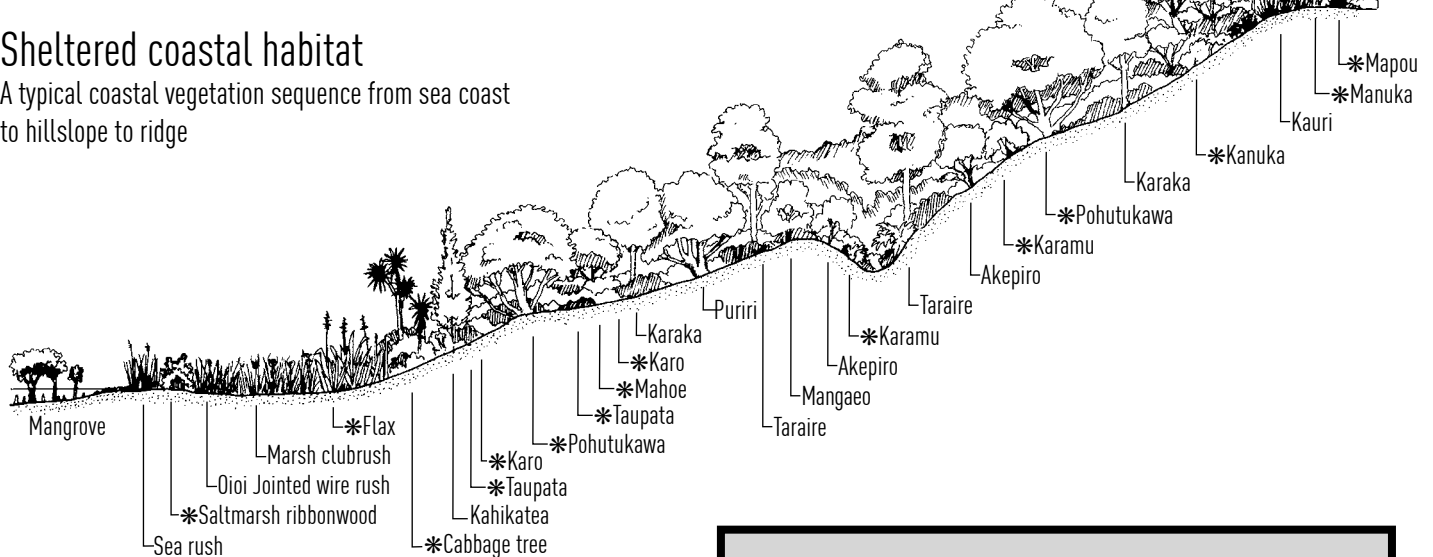
Inland habitat

A typical lowland vegetation sequence from stream/wetland to hillslope to ridge



Sheltered coastal habitat

A typical coastal vegetation sequence from sea coast to hillslope to ridge



* **Pioneer or nurse species** are hardy species that should be planted first to establish a good canopy cover that restricts weed growth and promotes natural regeneration.

Ecosourcing is using native plants grown from locally grown seeds.

Ecosourced plants help to preserve the ecological distinctiveness of an area, and eco-sourced plants are better able to survive in the local conditions.

Plant spacing

Allow:

- 3-10 m for large trees, e.g. puriri, pohutukawa, kahikatea (=1000-100 plants per hectare).
- 1-2 m for small trees, e.g. mahoe, mapou and cabbage tree;
- 1 m for shrubs, e.g. karamu and manuka, and large tussock and flax (=10 000-2500 plants per hectare).
- 0.5 m for ground cover plants and small tussocks (ferns, rushes and sedges) (=40 000 plants per hectare)
- 0.5-0.6 m on sand dunes for native sand binders, e.g. pingao and spinifex (=40 000 plants per hectare)