

PLANT ME INSTEAD!

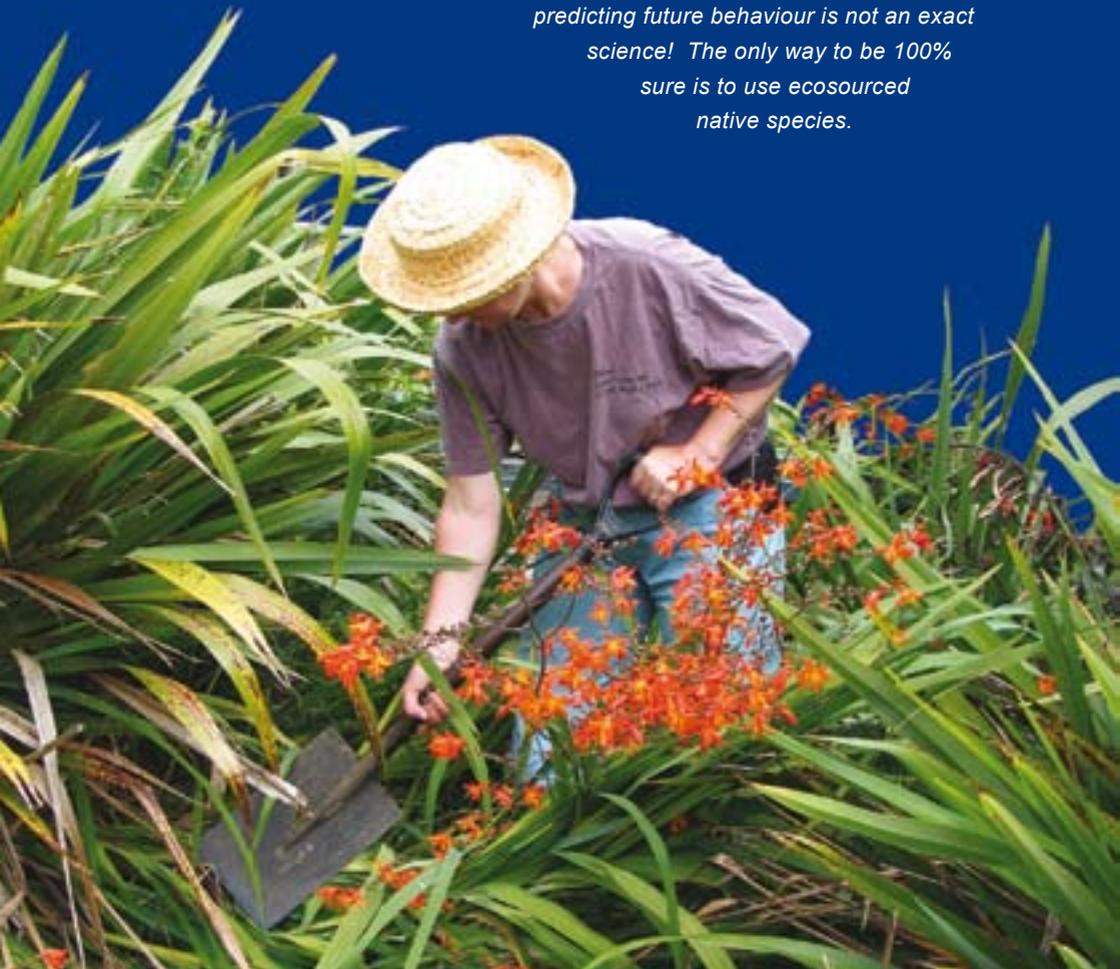


**EAST COAST
& HAWKES BAY**

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.



Get rid of a weed, plant me instead!

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



Know what's weedy

Groundcovers and fillers	1
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Climbers and vines	12
Shrubs and trees	22
Aquatic weeds	30



Look for the kiwi – NZ's iconic bird – it is used to mark native alternatives.

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Century plant (*Agave americana*)



C.Lewis

Tough succulent with grey leaves with spiked edges and very tall flowerspikes that produce large amounts of seed. Also reproduces by growing 'pups' from the base that can then form separate plants. Invades sand dunes, cliff areas, rocky outcrops, estuaries and wetlands where it impacts on human access and crowds out native species.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Harakeke

(*Phormium tenax*)



Also consider:
Kauri grass (*Astelia* species)

Aloe platyphylla



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Also consider:
Rosemerius species

1 Groundcovers
and fillers

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*)



C.Lewis

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 plants.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Bidibid (*Acaena inermis*)



C.Lewis



Also consider:
NZ daphne (*Pimelea prostrata*)

Chamomile sunray (*Rhodanthe anthemoides*)



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Also consider:
Verbena cultivars

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Yellow & kahili ginger (*Hedychium* species)



Yellow ginger (*H. flavescens*)



Kahili ginger (*H. gardnerianum*)

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

J. Boow (left), T. Senior (right)

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Rengarenga (*Arthropodium cirratum*)



C. Lewis



Also consider:
Kauri grass (*Astelia* species)
Kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsa*)

Bird of paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*)



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Also consider:
Hippeastrum cultivars

3

Groundcovers
and fillers

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Pink ragwort (*Senecio glastifolius*)



Herbaceous perennial growing to 1 metre tall with lacy foliage and pink daisy-like flowers followed by wind-spread seed. Invades a range of habitats, forming large infestations that crowd out desirable species.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Hebe cultivars



C. Lewis



Also consider:
Leptospermum cultivars

Kingfisher daisy (*Felicia amelloides*)



J. Liddle

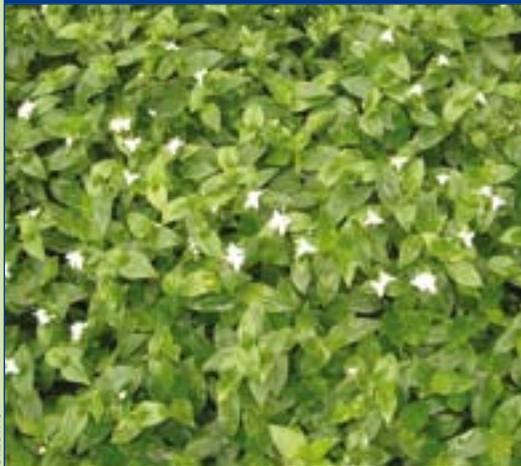
Groundcovers
and fillers

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GARDEN ESCAPEE



Tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)



C. Lewis

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Panakenake (*Pratia angulata*)



J. Rolfe



Also consider:
Renga renga (*Arthropodium cirrhatum*)
NZ iris (*Libertia grandiflora*)

Winter rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)



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Also consider:
Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)



C. Lewis

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Turutu (*Dianella nigra*)



R. Morris, DOC



Also consider:
Creeping fuchsia (*Fuchsia procumbens*)

Speedwell (*Veronica prostrata*)



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Also consider:
Campanula cultivars

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox*)



C. Lewis

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Rengarenga (*Arthropodium cirratum*)



C. Lewis



Also consider:
Turutu (*Dianella nigra*)
Mikoikoi (*Libertia ixiodes*)

Turf lily (*Liriope muscari*)



C. Lewis

Also consider:
Day lily (*Hemerocallis* species, except *H. fulva*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Pampas (*Cortaderia selloana* & *C. jubata*)



C.Lewis

Large perennial clump-forming grass to 5 metres tall with large, upright, fluffy flowers. Leaves are narrow and sharp-edged. 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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Toetoe (*Cortaderia toetoe*)



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Also consider:
Red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*)

Snow tussock (*Chionochloa flavescens*)



www.cfgphoto.com



Also consider:
Silver tussock (*Poa cita*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*)



C.Lewis

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Rengarenga (*Arthropodium cirratum*)



C.Lewis



Also consider:
Turutu (*Dianella nigra*)
Tukauki (*Libertia grandiflora*)

Hemerocallis 'Amber glow'



www.cjphoto.com

Also consider:
Oxblood Lily (*Hippeastrum advenum*)

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Grasses
and bulbs

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Palm grass (*Setaria palmifolia*)



C.Lewis

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Pepepe

(*Machaerina sinclairii*)



C.Lewis



Also consider:
Renga renga (*Arthropodium cirratum*)
Mountain flax (*Phormium cookianum*)

Chionochloa flavicans



www.cjgphoto.com



Also consider:
Red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Arum lily & green goddess



C.Lewis

(*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, modified, greenish-white 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...

Kakaha (*Astelia fragrans*)



J.Royle



Also consider:
Renga renga (*Arthropodium cirratum*)

Hosta species



C.Lewis

Also consider:
Day lily (*Heemerocallis* species except *H. fulva*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Madiera vine (*Anredera cordifolia*)



C. Lewis

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

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Pohuehue

(*Muehlenbeckia complexa*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:

Akakiore (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)

Three Kings vine (*Tecomanthe speciosa*)

Japanese wisteria

(*Wisteria floribunda*)



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Also consider:

Silky wisteria (*Wisteria venusta*)

Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Moth plant / cruel vine (*Araujia sericifera*)



C.Lewis

Slender evergreen vine climbing to 6m 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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Leafless clematis (*Clematis afooliata*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:
Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)
Small white clematis (*Clematis forsteri*)

Tweedia (*Tweedia caerulea*)



www.cigphoto.com

Also consider:
Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Smilax (*Asparagus asparagoides*)



C. Lewis

Low climbing, wiry perennial vine growing from dense masses of tubers. Small oval leaves may die back over summer. Tiny white flowers are followed by red, bird-spread berries. Also spreads by tubers. Smothers and outcompetes native species. A particular problem in coastal areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Small white clematis (*Clematis forsteri*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:
Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)
NZ jasmine (*Parsonia heterophylla*)

Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)



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Also consider:
Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Climbing spindleberry (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Department of Conservation

Deciduous, perennial vine with variable leaves that turn bright orange-yellow in autumn. Clusters of small greenish-yellow flowers are followed by yellow capsules that split to reveal a bright red, bird-spread berry. Aggressive invader that strangles or smothers native species in forest margins and natural areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Rata

(*Metrosideros fulgens*)



A. Dijkgraaf, DOC



Also consider:
Three Kings vine (*Tecomanthe speciosa*)

Star jasmine

(*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)



www.cjgphoto.com

Also consider:
Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

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Climbers
and vines

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)



C. Lewis

Perennial, woody, deciduous climber with five leaflets (compared to the native clematis that has three leaflets). Small white flowers from December to March are followed by silky balls of seed. Serious threat to native bush, overtopping it and forming a thick blanket that kills native plants and trees.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Small white clematis (*Clematis forsteri*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:
Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)

Evergreen clematis (*Clematis armandii*)



www.cfpphoto.com

Also consider:
Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Common ivy (*Hedera helix*)



Department of Conservation

Vigorous, evergreen, creeping vine that can climb to 30 metres. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by black, fleshy fruit spread by birds. Stems or fragments touching the ground can also take root. Completely carpets the forest floor and can climb to the tops of trees, clinging with small aerial roots. Smothers native species and prevents native seedlings establishing.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Three King's vine (*Tecomanthe speciosa*)



G.Crowcroft, DOC



Also consider:
Crimson rata (*Metrosideros carminea*)
NZ jasmine (*Parsonia heterophylla*)

Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)



www.cfpphoto.com

Also consider:
Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Blue morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*)



C. Lewis

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...

Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:
NZ jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)

Morning glory (*Convolvulus cneorum*)



J. Liddle

Also consider:
Evergreen clematis (*Clematis armandii*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*)



C. Lewis

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...

Small white clematis (*Clematis forsteri*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:
Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)
NZ jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)

Star jasmine

(*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)



www.cfpphoto.com

Also consider:
Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



C.Lewis

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Small white clematis (*Clematis forsteri*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:
NZ jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)

Yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)



www.cfbphoto.com

Also consider:
Rosa banksia 'luteum'

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Banana passionfruit & blue passionflower



Passiflora caerulea



Passiflora tarminiana

C. Lewis (left), C. Howell, DOC (right)

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Kohia (*Passiflora tetandra*)



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Also consider:
NZ jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)

Chilean bellflower (*Lapageria rosea*)



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Also consider:
Evergreen clematis (*Clematis armandii*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)



C.Lewis

Deciduous tree growing to 20 metres with smooth grey bark and distinctive wind-spread 'helicopter' seeds. Seedlings are shade tolerant, allowing it to invade and ultimately take over bush areas that would be resistant to invasion by other weed species. Long lived, and forms dense stands that crowd out native species.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Manatu

(*Plagianthus regius*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:

Titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*)

Wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*)

Liquidamber

(*Liquidamber styraciflua*)



C.Lewis

Also consider:

Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*)



C.Lewis

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

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsa*)



Also consider:
Koromiko (*Hebe stricta*)
Corokia buddleoides

Lilac bush (*Syringa vulgaris*)



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Also consider:
Luculia (*Luculia gratissima*)
Crepe myrtle (*Lagastromeria indica*)

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)



C.Howell, DOC

Bushy, many-branched shrub growing to 3 metres with thick, toothed leaves. Bright yellow, daisy-like flowers are followed by hard, ivory-coloured seed spread by birds and water. Rapidly colonises coastal cliffs and dunes and other associated natural areas and crowds out native plants.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*)



www.dgphoto.com



Also consider:
Shrub daisy (*Brachyglottis greyi*)
Taupata (*Coprosma repens*)
Coastal tree daisy (*Olearia solandri*)

Genista *steropetalata*



J.Liddie

Also consider:
Mesembryanthemum varieties

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster franchetii*)



Spreading evergreen shrub growing to 4 metres tall, 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.

Department of Conservation

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Karamu (*Coprosma robusta*)

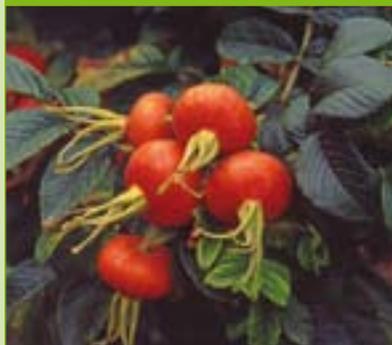


J Rolfe



Also consider:
Corokia cotoneaster

Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*)



www.cfpphoto.com

Also consider:
Fejoa species

25

Shrubs
and trees

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Japanese walnut (*Juglans ailantifolia*)



C. Lewis

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.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*)



K. Broome



Also consider:
Mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*)

English oak (*Quercus robur*)



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Also consider:
Other *Quercus* species

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Tree privet & Chinese privet (*Ligustrum* spp)



Tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*)



Chinese privet (*L. sinense*)

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.

C. Lewis

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Akeake

(*Dodonea viscosa*)



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Also consider:
Lemonwood (*Pittosporum eugenioides*)
Karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*)

Evergreen magnolia

(*Magnolia grandiflora*)



www.cfpphoto.com

Also consider:
Camellia sasanqua

27

Shrubs
and trees

GARDEN ESCAPEE



Sweet pea shrub (*Polygala myrtifolia*)



C. Lewis

Perennial shrub up to 2 metres tall, with light green oval leaves. Pinky-purple pea-like flowers with a white outside petal are followed by hairy dark brown seeds in a winged capsule. Particularly a problem in coastal areas, where it suppresses and inhibits native plant establishment.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Kowhai (*Sophora prostrata*)



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Also consider:
Hebe species

Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*)



www.cifphoto.com

Also consider:
Glory bush (*Tibouchina grandiflora*)

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.

C.Lewis

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Whauwhaupaku (*Pseudopanax arboreus*)



Department of Conservation



Also consider:
Wharangi (*Melicope ternata*)
Kowhai (*Sophora* species)

Glory bush (*Tibouchina grandiflora*)



www.crfphoto.com

Also consider:
Fragrant viburnum (*Viburnum farreri*)

POND & AQUARIUM ESCAPEES



Hydrilla (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

R. Wells, NIWA



Submerged bottom-rooting perennial. The leaves are arranged in whorls around the stem, and have toothed edges. No seed is set in New Zealand, but forms new plants from fragments of stem and leaf, and from small tubers and buds produced by mature plants. Rapidly forms dense infestations that shade out native species, and block irrigation and drainage channels and hydroelectric dams.



Lagarosiphon (*Lagarosiphon major*)

NIWA



Submerged bottom-rooting perennial. The leaves, arranged spirally around stem, 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.



Mexican water lily (*Nymphaea mexicana*)

NIWA



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.



Groundcovers and fillers

Century plant	<i>Agave americana</i>	1
Mexican daisy	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	2
Yellow and kahili ginger	<i>Hedychium</i> species	3
Pink ragwort	<i>Senecio glastifolius</i>	4
Tradescantia	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	5
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	7

Grasses and bulbs

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Smilax	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	15
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Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	17
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Te Papa Atawhai