

Native plants of Canterbury foothills forests



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Beech/tawhai is the most common native forest in the Canterbury foothills. Black beech/tawhairauriki (*Fuscopora solandri*) dominates the lower slopes, while mountain beech/tawhairauriki (*Fuscopora solandri* var. *cliffortioides*) is more prevalent at higher altitudes and on the more exposed, harsh sites. Red beech/tawhairaunui (*Fuscopora fusca*) is also present, but is uncommon and found only in the Mt Grey area.

Podocarp species, such as kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*) and rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) are also present on the poorly drained lower slopes and in moist gullies where they mix with beech. The understorey is diverse, and consists of a wide range of shrubs, herbaceous plants and fern species. The more common shrubs include species of coprosma/karamū, lancewood/horoeka, broadleaf/kāpuka (*Griselinia littoralis*), putaputāwētā (*Carpodetus serratus*), wineberry/makomako (*Aristotelia serrata*) and other *Pseudopanax* species.

Regenerating forest is also a feature of the Canterbury foothills flora and is represented by broadleaf, kōwhai (*Sophora microphylla*), small-leaved coprosma species, mountain wineberry (*Aristotelia fruticosa*), mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and kānuka (*Kunzea serotina*).

Southern rātā (*Metrosideros umbellata*) is found sporadically, growing on bluffs and rock outcrops, especially in Alford Forest.

Black and mountain beech/tawhairauriki dominate the canopy of the foothills forests. Red beech/tawhairaunui is uncommon, and is found only in the Mt Grey area.

R = rare

Aristotelia serrata, makomako, wineberry
Astelia fragrans, kakaha, bush lily
Austroderia richardii, toetoe
Carex buchananii, matirewa, cutty grass
Carex dipsacea
Carex secta, pukio
Carex tenuiculmis (R)
Carex virgata, swamp sedge
Carmichaelia torulosa (R)
Carpodetus serratus, putaputāwētā, marble leaf
Clematis paniculata
Coprosma 'Taylorii'
Coprosma linariifolia, yellow-wood
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma propinqua, mingimingi
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma robusta, karamū
Coprosma rotundifolia
Coprosma virescens
Cordyline australis, tī kōuka, cabbage tree
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides, kahikatea, white pine
Dacrydium cupressium, rimu
Elaeocarpus hookerianus, pōkākā
Fuscopora fusca, tawhairaunui, red beech
Fuscopora solandri, tawhairauriki, black beech

Fuscopora solandri var. *cliffortioides*, tawhairauriki, mountain beech
Griselinia littoralis, pāpāuma, broadleaf
Hebe salicifolia, koromiko
Hebe traversii
Hoheria lyallii, houhi, mountain ribbonwood
Kunzea serotina, kānuka,
Leptospermum scoparium, mānuka
Melicope simplex, poataniwha
Melicytus flexuosus
Metrosideros umbellata, southern rātā, ironwood
Myrsine australis, māpou, matipou
Myrsine divaricata, weeping māpou
Olearia avicenniaefolia, akeake
Phormium cookianum, wharariki, mountain flax
Phormium tenax, harakeke, NZ flax
Pittosporum eugenioides, tarata, lemonwood
Pittosporum tenuifolium, kōhūhu
Plagianthus regius, mānatu, ribbonwood
Podocarpus hallii, mountain tōtara
Prumnopitys ferruginea, miro
Prumnopitys taxifolia, matai, black pine
Pseudopanax arboreus, whauwhaupaku, five finger
Pseudopanax colensoi, oriho, mountain five finger
Pseudopanax crassifolius, horoeka, lancewood
Raukaua anomalus
Sophora microphylla, kōwhai
Uncinia rubra
Zotovia avenacea

Black beech is the main forest tree on the older lower slopes. Understorey plants, climbers and shrubs fill gaps left by wind and snow-breaks.

In moist gullies, occasional rimu, kahikatea or matai tower above the beech canopy. Southern rātā is occasionally found on bluffs and rock outcrops, especially in Alford Forest.