

Alter-Natives Nursery & Landscaping Native Plant Fund 2014

2,880 Native Plants for Free. Given away as 30 lots of 96
(4 x 24 cell trays). Total value of \$5,520

**Entries open Wednesday 2nd April and close Wednesday 30th April 2014.
Drawn Thursday 1st May 2014.**

Why?

The primary purpose of the Alter-Natives Nursery & Landscaping Native Plant Fund is to support/sustain the environment by providing native plants for projects which will increase and improve the habitat for our native wild life such as birds and insects and improve water quality in streams and wetlands for improved habitat for fish etc. The extended value of this project is widespread for the environment and the community.

For example:

Revegetation improves the underground water table; reduces rainfall runoff which in turn reduces flooding and silting of waterways including harbours.

Revegetation creates a forest habitat for our native wildlife which has suffered from the excessive slash and burn of past agriculture practises.

Revegetation will have long term positive effects for our international reputation as a nation that is prepared to spend time and money on the environment.

We do not give away money or labour to support your project, but of the 500,000 plants we produce this year, we have decided that it is appropriate we give 2,880 of them away in this way through this fund.

History of the Fund:

Since starting the fund in 2007 we have given away 41,600 plants worth \$91,830 (\$73,771 funded by Alter-Natives and \$18,058 funded by NRC).

2013: We did not run our Native Plant Fund for 2013 as we did a trial run of our Tomato Plant Fund where we gave away 5000 tomato plants in spring worth \$7500. It was a great success. We will run this again each spring.

2012: The number of plants was changed to 4800 worth \$8000 (50 lots of 96 plants). There were 180 entries. We changed quantity to match our new reveg grade tray which holds 24 plants. NRC withdrew its funding to focus on fencing waterways.

2011: The number of plants was changed to 9,000 (90 lots of 100) worth \$24,750. NRC contributed \$5934. There were 296 entries.

2010: The area was extended further to include all of Rodney District. We increased the number of plants we give away to 93 lots of 100 worth a total of \$24,180. We received 252 applications. NRC contributed \$6750.

2009: The area for our third year was extended to include projects which were in the Kaipara Harbour water catchment and the draw dates were brought forward to April. There was less marketing of the fund and we had fewer entries than the year before. However of the 85 received, 75 lots went to good projects as far away as South Head. Total value was \$19,500. NRC contributed \$3375.

2008: Our second year saw Northland Regional Council contribute \$2000 which added another 1000 plants to make a total of 6000 to give away worth a total of \$14,400. We had 205 entries for the 60 lots. Once again entries and winners were quite diverse. Unfortunately we had 5 entries arrive some days late.

2007: This was the beginning of the fund with 117 entries for 50 lots of 100 plants, worth \$10,000, which was fully funded by Alter-Natives Wholesale Nursery. Entries ranged from children, retired people, schools, farmers and conservation groups. It inspired us to run this fund each year.

Conditions of Entry

Almost anybody can enter for a lot of 96 native plants as there are few criteria to be met. The primary purpose of the planting **MUST** be for the improvement of the environment.

Applicants can be:

Private land owners.

Schools or other Education providers.

Clubs or Youth groups.

Community trusts or Land Care groups which are responsible for the care of Community, QEII or DOC land.

Sites MUST Be in either:

Whangarei District, Kaipara District.

Apply only once for each project you wish to undertake each year.

Applicants must NOT be:

Property developers or speculators.

Plants MUST be planted:

Fenced off or protected from livestock.

In a way that creates a small forest or joins an existing forest or

Following along a stream or forms a wetland or around a dam and helps improving water quality.

Plants must NOT be:

For hedges planted in 3 or less rows.

For compliance for council requirements such as resource consent or effluent fields (ETS field).

What plants do you get?

All 30 lots of 96 plants are 24 cell trays (each cell half litre) which are a good size for revegetation.

You will get to select 4 trays (each tray is 24 plants of a single species). You can choose all the same species or all different. If you don't know what you need just tell the Alter-Natives Team what sort of environment you are planting.

You can select from these species:

Purei (*Carex secta*), Pukio (*Carex virgata*), Harakeke, Flax (*Phormium tenax*), Cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*), Wiwi (*Juncus edgariae* or *Juncus palidus*), Kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*).

How to enter

Fill in the simple entry form at the end of this document and post it to:

Native Plant Fund

Alter-Natives Nursery & Landscaping

101 Kioreroa Road

Whangarei 0110

We must receive entries by Wednesday 30th April 2014.

How the winners are drawn

On Thursday 1st May all correctly filled in entries will be read by representatives from the Department of Conservation and the Northland Regional Council and the 30 winning entries decided. There is some consideration to the merit of the projects with no hard and fast rules as to who will receive plants.

Winners will be notified by phone over the following few days and their names and areas will be listed on our web site.

When to collect the plants

Collection of plants can take place from Friday 2nd May until Saturday 31st May from Alter-Natives Nursery & Landscaping at 101 Kioreroa Road, Whangarei, Phone 09 974 8733. Open week days 8-5 Saturday 9-3, Sunday 10-3.

Please note our change of address to 101 Kioreroa Road in Whangarei. Our Port Rd yard and our Waipu yard relocate on 2 April.

Please note that we would prefer not to store your plants after 31st May.

The basics of revege are as follows.

Site Prep: Preparation of the site could be either; heavy grazing by livestock, mowing/mulching, spraying which may or may not be followed with weed-matting, or you may not need to do anything as is often the case with supplementary plantings.

Mulching: Placing mulch around the plants will aid in their growth by adding nutrients as it decays and reduces ground heating during summer and increasing moisture retention.

Plant Spacing: Plant trees about 1m to 2m apart. Flaxes, rushes, sedges and grasses can be planted closer and should be at or near the edge if planting a forest (not in the middle). This amount of plants will create a revege area of 100 to 400 square metres (depending on spacing).

Staking: If you are in a windy area then you should stake any trees. Staking stops the plant blowing around and allows for faster and healthier root development which help the plant get well established.

When to Plant: Plant as soon as you are able to as this will allow maximum time for the plant roots to develop before summer arrives. Autumn (May, June) is the main planting season, particularly for big jobs.

Maintenance: Keep the weeds and grass (particularly kikuyu) under control around the plants for the first year so plants get established.

Pukeko problems: You can stop Pukekos from pulling out plants by pushing 1 or 2 stakes diagonally through the root ball of the plant (this requires a 1/2 litre size pot or bigger to be effective). If they are very hungry they will persist to dig them out.

HAPPY PLANTING From Ian & Cindy Fox and the Team at Alter-Natives.

www.alter-natives.co.nz

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Entry Form

Applicants Name: Telephone:

Organisation Name: Email:

What district is the site in: (*please circle*): Kaipara District Whangarei District

Address of the property that the plants will be planted on?

What are your plans for your revegetation project and what is your primary purpose?

What is your preferred mix of plants. You can select 4 trays from these species: (*please put number of trays*)
 ___ Purei (*Carex secta*), ___ Pukio (*Carex virgata*), ___ Harakeke, Flax (*Phormium tenax*), ___ Cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*), ___ Wiwi (*Juncus edgariae*), ___ Wiwi (*Juncus palidus*), ___ Kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), ___ Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*).

I agree to the conditions of entry as mentioned on the web page.

Name

Signed

Date

Post to: **Native Plant Fund, Alter-Natives Nursery & Landscaping, 101 Kioreroa Road, Whangarei 0110**

We must receive entries by 5pm, 30th April 2014.