



newsletter



WHAT are Council preferences in Street Trees?

Auckland Council has a relatively limited approved native species list for use as Auckland Street Trees. Those on the list tend to be the old standby natives which are good, sturdy, generally well-known species. The following list notes the main attributes Council appears to prefer for Auckland Street Trees.

- 1. Single leader**
- 2. Clear trunk to 1-1.5m**
- 3. Hardy, summer drought-tolerant species**
- 4. Lollipop shape**
- 5. Only moderately vigorous in-situ growth to avoid power line interference**
- 6. Only moderately vigorous in-situ root development to avoid impact on footpaths, roads, and neighbouring properties**
- 7. Minimal maintenance**
- 8. Diversity is good**
- 9. Natives that fruit as native bird corridors, and flowering varieties for bees, are desirable**

Because most native trees are accustomed to tough conditions and readily accommodate clay soils, wind, and summer drought, we have plenty of species which meet Council's Street Tree attribute requirements. (See our takana website under Street Trees)

Many of the native species we recommend are unlikely to present the size problems that some of the more common exotics do (such as Oak, Eucalypts & Poplars). These larger exotic trees can create power line or other maintenance issues.

It must be remembered, and stated, that wherever trees are planted, no matter what soil, or how sheltered, young trees need water over their first summer in-situ. Ideally a cheap trickle irrigation hose set up on a cheap timer would be the best option. We know that can be difficult to achieve in street projects, but it's important that Council understand this requirement for water over the initial summer.

Contact us for alternative species which also meet the Council's list of preferences. Alas, diversity ranks only second to last on Council's list. We're happy to show you viable options.