



New Zealand native trees and plants

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Tī kōuka (Cabbage tree)

- **Description:** Long, narrow leaves, and blue-white berries
- **Height:** 12–20 metres
- **Life span:** Up to 500 years
- **Location:** Farmland, wetlands and scrubland
- **Uses:** Early settlers used to eat the shoots instead of cabbage (which is where it gets its English name!)



Harakeke

- **Description:** Tall, green, sword-like leaves of flax
- **Height:** Up to 4 metres
- **Location:** Commonly found along rivers and in swamps
- **Uses:** Clothing, rope, baskets and fishing nets, as well as wound healing



Kauri

- **Description:** Young kauri trees have straight, pole-like trunks that thicken as they age
- **Height:** Over 50 metres
- **Life span:** More than 2000 years!
- **Location:** Throughout the upper North Island
- **Uses:** Building waka, burning the gum for heat and light sources



Kōwhai

- **Description:** Tūi love these bright yellow flowers!
- **Height:** Around 8 metres
- **Location:** All across the country, and in people's gardens
- **Uses:** The hard wood of the kōwhai has been used to make tools and machinery



Pōhutukawa

- **Description:** Red flowers often seen around Christmas time
- **Height:** Up to 25 metres
- **Life span:** One tree in Cape Reinga is 800 years old!
- **Location:** It grows naturally in the upper North Island but can be found across the country!
- **Uses:** The wood was often used in shipbuilding



Kawakawa

- **Description:** Heart-shaped leaves
- **Height:** Up to 6 metres
- **Location:** Coastal and lowland forests
- **Uses:** Healing: cuts and wounds, used for insect repellent, headaches, making tea

