



### Your Stream: a life support system!

Your local stream sustains the life of many plants, birds, insects and animals. For some the stream is a larder, for others a home; for humans it's a place to play and relax. Your stream is part of a growing network of green and watery places connecting people and places, coast with city, home with wilderness.

### Why planting beside your stream is a great idea!

- Plants hold the soil together - preventing bank collapses.
- Plants absorb and clean excess water and limit flooding of your property.
- Plants shade the water, lowering the water temperature. This is good for the critters who live in or by the stream.
- Planted and healthy banks keep the weeds back and reduce weed spread via the waterway.

### What to Plant Where!

By the stream edge either:

1. plant a 2m wide band of sedges, grasses and a few cabbage trees. This enables you to keep a view of the stream and to have easy access to it. Or.....
2. if you have room, extend the planting to get greater benefit. Starting at the stream edge plant sedges and grasses, then cabbage trees and flax or toetoe up to 5m back. Plant densely. 5-10m from the stream plant shrubs and small trees e.g. kowhai, and ponga. 10m from the stream edge plant taller trees like rewarewa, and karaka.

• Pioneer plants such as sedges, grasses, flax, toetoe, karamu, mahoe and cabbage trees should be planted first. These plants are good at getting started in bare ground or where there is only grass or weeds. They also become homes for birds.

- Look at the site and add plants which grow there naturally and show they can survive.

### How to Plant

Clear weeds from around your planting site. Dig a hole deeper and larger than the root bundle and put compost in the hole. Place the plant in the hole, fill the hole with soil and press soil gently around the plant, then water. Put mulch (compost, bark chips etc.) around but not touching the plant to help control weeds.

### Why plant Natives?

Because they belong here, are adapted to conditions here, and they need less care. Some birds eat mainly native berries, seeds, and nectars. They need native plants.

### When to Plant?

Plant in autumn or spring or on cloudy or cool days.

### Need some advice?

Phone 839-0400. Ask for more detailed information or for a free planting guide.