

Planting for tūi in the Hamilton area



About the Hamilton Halo project

The Hamilton Halo project aims to bring native birds, starting with tūi, back into Hamilton city.

The 'Halo' is a ring drawn around Hamilton, taking in key sites where tūi breed. The Halo's radius is 20 kilometres, which is how far tūi will fly to feed.

Hamilton Halo has:

- increased the survival rate of tūi chicks at key breeding sites surrounding Hamilton through pest control of possums and rats
- improved tūi feeding and breeding conditions in Hamilton
- recorded tūi starting to nest in Hamilton.

Helping tūi thrive

If you live in the Hamilton area, by planting flowering and fruiting native species in your garden, you can help to provide food for tūi in the city. Tūi love the abundant introduced species available in Hamilton over winter, but by planting the species listed below you will provide them with an urban summer food source. A study has found that honeyeaters, such as tūi and bellbirds, prefer native vegetation over introduced fruit bearing trees. Trees native to the area provide a healthy habitat.

Hamilton area tūi food guide

Flower nectar is the main food for tūi, but they also eat fruit. The species we recommend:

- occur naturally in Hamilton, so are ideal for Hamilton's conditions, and will require less care and work from you
- will attract other native birds, and their fruits and flowers will add both colour and interest to your garden.

Project partners: Landcare Research • University of Waikato.

Project supporters: The Department of Conservation • Hamilton City Council • Weedbusters.

Waikato Regional Council's freephone 0800 800 401
waikatoregion.govt.nz/hamiltonhalo
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Hamilton area tūi food guide

flowers/nectar fruit

Names	Size	Conditions	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Tī kōuka Cabbage tree <i>Cordyline australis</i>	H 8m W 3m	Full sun and semi-shade. Tolerates wet and dry conditions. Fast growing and hardy.	White-blue berries									White flowers			
Whauwhaupaku Five finger <i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	H 5m W 2m	Semi-shade, fast growing and hardy.				Small purple-black berries									
Kahikatea White pine <i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	H 20m+ W 4m	Prefers shelter when young. Tolerates very wet conditions.			Bright red fruit										
Kohekohe* <i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	H 5-10m	Semi-shade and shade. Requires shelter and rich moist soil. Frost tender when young. May be difficult to grow in Hamilton.					Green fruit with red flesh								
							White flowers								
Kōwhai <i>Sophora microphylla</i>	H 8m W 5m	Full sun and semi-shade. Loses its leaves in winter. Quite fast growing and hardy.										Bright yellow flowers			
Harakeke Lowland flax <i>Phormium tenax</i>	H 2m W 2m	Full sun. Tolerant of wet and dry conditions. Fast growing and hardy. Undesirable to grow with mountain flax since they hybridise.	Brownish-red flowers											Brownish-red flowers	
Māhoe Whiteywood <i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	H 5m W 3m	Slightly frost tender when young. Tolerates damp conditions.		White to purple -black berries								White flowers			
Wharariki Mountain flax <i>Phormium cookianum</i>	H 1m W 1m	Full sun and semi shade. Tolerates dry conditions, Wind hardy. Undesirable to grow with harakeke since they hybridise.	Pink-yellow flowers										Pink-yellow flowers		
Patē Seven finger <i>Schefflera digitata</i>	H 3m W 2m	Shade, requires sheltered position. Tolerates damp conditions and frost.			Purple berries										
Porokaiwhiri Pigeonwood <i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	H 5m W 3m	Semi shade, sheltered position. Frost tender when young.	Bright orange-red fruit (female plants)										Bright orange -red fruit (female plants)		
Pūriri* <i>Vitex lucens</i>	H 10m+ W 6m	Frost tender, wind tolerant. Can be difficult to grow in Hamilton.	Pinkish-red flowers most of the year, mostly over winter												
			Bright red berries all year round, mostly over summer												
Rewarewa <i>Knightia excelsa</i>	H 12m W 4m	Full sun and semi-shade. Intolerant of wet.									Brownish-red flowers				
Makomako Wineberry <i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	H 6m W 4m	Full sun to moderate shade. Wet tolerant, fast growing. Semi-deciduous in colder climates.	Red-black berries									Pale pink to deep red flowers			
Kaikōmako <i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	H 10m	Moist, fertile sites. Useful species application in bank stabilisation or wetland habitats.			Dark purple/ black fruit										
Karamu, shining karamu <i>Coprosma robusta</i>	H 3m	Forest margins, scrubland and stream banks where there is sufficient light.	Orange to red fruit												
Thin-leaved coprosma <i>Coprosma areolata</i>	H 4-6m	Well-drained light and medium soils. Can grow in semi or no-shade.			Dark purple/ black berries										
Round-leaved coprosma <i>Coprosma rotundifolia</i>	H 2.4m	Well-drained light and medium soils. Can grow in semi or no-shade.	Orange-red fruit												
Rigid mikimiki <i>Coprosma rigida</i>	H 4m	Shady damp forest in poorly drained soil.		White, yellow or orange fruit											
Karamū <i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	H 2m	Well-drained light and medium soils. Can grow in semi or no-shade.			Red fruit										
Swamp coprosma/hukihuki <i>Coprosma tenuicaulis</i>	H 1-3m	Lowland swamps and boggy ground, shrubland and wet forest.		Dark purple/black fruit , rarely white with blue flecks											

Vitex lucens & *Dysoxylum spectabile*: frost tender; can be difficult to grow in Hamilton.
Phormium cookianum: undesirable to grow this species in conjunction with *phormium tenax* since they hybridise.