



# Flora of New Zealand

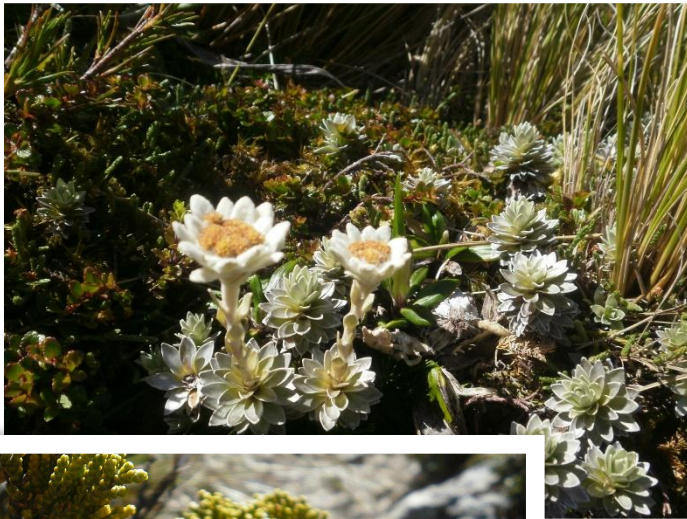
{ Tatyana Shpanchuk; 21-EG





*New Zealand's geographical isolation has meant the country has developed a unique variety of native flora. However, human migration has led to the importation of many other plants (generally referred to as 'exotics' in New Zealand) as well as widespread damage to the indigenous flora, especially after the advent of European colonisation, due to the combined efforts of farmers and specialised societies dedicated to importing European plants & animals.*





□ *Indigenous New Zealand flora generally has the following characteristics:*

- *the majority are evergreen.*
- *few annual herbs.*
- *few cold-tolerant trees.*
- *majority are dispersed by birds.*
- *very few have defences against mammalian browsers.*
- *few nitrogen fixing plants.*
- *few fire-adapted species.*
- *many dioecious species.*
- *flowers are typically small and white.*
- *many plants have divaricating growth forms.*
- *many plants have evolved into larger forms compared with similar plant families in other countries.*







*While most of the world's ferns grow in tropical climates, New Zealand hosts an unusual number of ferns for a temperate country. These exhibit a variety of forms, from stereotypical feather-shaped tufted ferns and tree ferns to less typical filmy, leafy and climbing ferns. Both the koru, in the shape of an unfurling fern frond, and the silver fern are widely accepted symbols of New Zealand.*

*New Zealand has ten species of tree ferns, but there are numerous ground, climbing and perching smaller ferns to be found throughout the country's forests, the largest of which is the king fern.*

# *Ferns*



- *New Zealand has a greater density of liverworts than any other country, due to its cool, wet and temperate climate. About half the species are endemic to New Zealand.*
- *There are 606 species known in New Zealand. While these include some thallose liverworts, with liver-shaped thalli, most are leafy liverworts which can be confused with mosses and filmy ferns. Undescribed species, and those not previously recorded in New Zealand, continue to be found in lowland forests. Ninety species and varieties are listed on the 2001 Department of Conservation threatened plants list, and 157 liverwort species and varieties will be included on the next version of the list as a result of better knowledge of the group.*
- *A three-volume work on liverworts in New Zealand is being written by John Engel and David Glenny, with the first volume published in 2008. The first volume will also be placed online in June 2009 as part of Floraseries.*



# *Liverworts*





- ▣ *There are 187 species of native grasses in New Zealand: 157 endemic and 30 indigenous species*

# *Grasses*



- ▣ *There are 523 known moss species and 23 varieties in New Zealand, with 208 genera represented. 108 species and 11 genera are considered endemic. Most New Zealand mosses originated in Gondwana, so there are strong relationships with species in Tasmania, South-eastern Australia, and temperate parts of South America.*



*Mosses*





*Unique New Zealand native plants and trees:  
coprosma, kauri, kowhai, kowharawhara,  
lancewood, nikau, rata, rimu, totara.*



A field of purple lupines in the foreground, with a lake and mountains in the background under a twilight sky.

*Thanks for your attention*

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