

COASTAL OTAGO REGION

Riparian zones are the land beside a creek, river, lake or wetland. Planting native grasses, sedges, flaxes, shrubs and/or trees in riparian zones can improve the health of Otago's waterways by filtering nutrients before they reach the water, including nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria such as *E. coli*.

Riparian planting has other benefits too:

- ✓ Enhanced ecosystem health (including habitat for insects) and increased biodiversity
- ✓ Reduced sediment runoff and increased bank stabilisation
- ✓ Provides shade that decreases waterway temperatures (this reduces weed growth and provides stable temperatures for aquatic organisms)
- ✓ Provides shelter for stock
- ✓ Potential recreational opportunities such as fishing and swimming spots

Check this guide to see which plants will work best for where you live.

Planting guides are also available for Central Otago, East Otago, South Otago, and Upper Clutha.



Otago is the second largest region in New Zealand and we have a diverse range of landscapes, so it's important to choose the right plants for your climate and soil type.



RIPARIAN PLANTING GUIDE

COASTAL OTAGO REGION

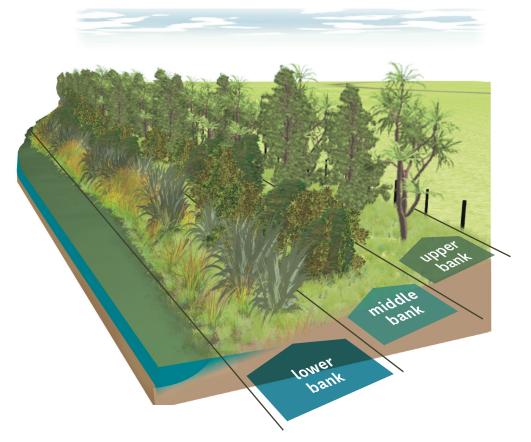
Zone	Plant	Space	Size		Tole	rants			Benefit	ts	Notes			
· · · ·		between plants (m)	height (m) x width (m)	full sun	frost	wind	moist /wet soil		pollina- tors					
LOWER BANK oundcover	Sea Sedge Carex litorosa	0.5	0.6 x 0.5	•	•	•	•	0	0	0	In serious decline. Good for filtration and erosion control.	L		
LOWER BANK Groundcover	Saltmarsh Ribbonwood Plagianthus divaricatus	1.5	2 x 2	•	0	•	•	•	•	0	Good for erosion control. Best planted a row back from the bank edge due to their larger size.			
	Harakeke/Flax Phormium tenax	2	2 x 2	•	•	•	•	•	•	0	Good for erosion control.	M B		
hrubs	Oioi Apodasmia similis	1	1.5 x 1	•	•	•	•	0	0	•	Provides good inanga spawning habitat. Can also tolerate some dry. Good for erosion control.			
K Groundcover / small shrubs	Toetoe Austroderia richardii	2	2 x 2	•	•	•	•	0	0	0	Useful in retaining steep banks. Berries attract skinks. Upright columnar habit is good for narrow spaces.			
cover /	Coprosma Coprosma crassifolia	4	4 x 4	•	•	•	•	•	0	0				
Srounde	Mingimingi Coprosma propinqua	1.5	4 x 2	•	•	•	•	•	•	0				
MIDDLE BANK	Kokomuka Veronica elliptica	1	1.5 x 1	•	•	•	•	0	•	0	Grows best in well-drained soil, will grow in dry sites.			
AID DEL	Cabbage Tree Cordyline australis	1 - 1.5	10 x 3	•	•	•	•	•	•	0	Good for bank stabilisation and tolerates very wet to moderately dry conditions.			
	Mānuka Leptospermum scoparium	2	5 x 2	•	•	•	•	0	•	0	Match the planting conditions to the seed source*			
Trees / large shrubs	Rohutu / NZ Myrtle Lophomyrtus obcordata	2	4 x 2.5	•	•	•	•	•	•	0				
ees / la	Māhoe/Whiteywood Melicytus ramiflorus	2.5	9 x 3	•	•	•	•	•	•	0	Tolerates damp to very dry conditions. Not frost tolerant as a sapling.			
Ĕ	Kaikomako Pennantia corymbosa	3	8 x 6	•	•	•	•	•	•	0	Will grow in partial and full shade. Very attractive to birds, especially bellbirds.			
	Ribbonwood Plagianthus regius	2	10 x 3	•	•	•	•	•	•	0	Deciduous tree, fast growing. Good for bank stabilisation.			
N / S	Mountain Akeake Olearia avicenniifolia	2	3 x 2	•	•	0	0	0	•	0				
UPPER BANK Groundcover / small shrubs	Akiraho/Golden Akeake Olearia paniculata	2	4 x 2.5	•	0	•	0	•	•	0	Rapid growth rate. Vanilla scented creamy white flowers in summer. Intolerant of wet sites.			

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			between plants (m)	height (m) x width (m)	full sun	frost	wind	moist /wet soil	birds	pollina- tors	fish		
UPPER BANK	Trees / large shrubs	Kahikatea Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	3	60 x 5	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Good for erosion control.	
		Broadleaf Griselinia littoralis	2	10 x 3	•	•	•	0	•	0	0	Good for erosion control.	
		Kānuka Kunzea ericoides	2	30 x 3	•	•	•	0	0	•	0		
		Ngaio Myoporum laetum	3	7 x 4	•	0	•	0	•	•	0	Leaves can cause sickness and death if eaten by stock. Fast growing and avoided by rabbits.	
		Matipo Myrsine australis	2	5 x 3	•	0	•	0	•	0	0		
		Lemonwood Pittosporum eugenioides	3	7 x 5	•	•	•	0	•	0	0	Good for bank stabilisation.	
		Kōhūhū Pittosporum tenuifolium	2	5 x 4	•	•	0	0	•	0	0	Good for bank stabilisation. Not wind tolerant as a sapling.	
		Totara Podocarpus totara	3	30 x 8	•	•	•	0	•	•	0	Grows best with some shelter. Not frost tolerant as a sapling.	
		Lancewood Pseudopanax crassifolius	2	12 x 3	•	0	•	0	•	•	0	Good for erosion control.	
		Kōwhai Sophora microphylla	2	8 x 5	•	•	•	0	•	0	0		

UPPER BANK







Riparian zones can generally be divided into three areas:

■ Lower bank area

Prone to flooding. Best for plant species that can tolerate waterlogged roots and survive many days under water.

■ Middle bank area

Plant species that can tolerate having damp feet.

■ Upper bank area

May partially flood every couple of years. Plant tree and shrub species that prefer dry conditions.

This guide is not an exhaustive list and we recommend you talk to your local nursery to find out more about what grows best where you live.

When is the best time to plant?

Spring is an ideal time to plant, although planting can be undertaken all year round dependent on specific site conditions.

Summer and winter are the least preferable seasons as plants are likely to be under

stress. If you're planting in summer, you will probably need to water the plants or add water retention crystals to ensure good plant survival.

If you're planting in autumn, make sure the plants have a few months to establish if they are likely to be inundated with water during winter/spring flows.