

Creating a Lizard-friendly Garden

Tussock skink



I love complex grasses, shrubs, and rocky areas. I need lots of sun and a little bit of moisture in too!

Find a sunny spot – lizards are ectotherms, meaning they rely on the sun to regulate their body temperatures. Pick a location that receives lots of sunlight throughout the day.

Cats, rats, mice, stoats, weasels, ferrets, and hedgehogs all eat lizards! **Avoid free-roaming pet cats** and consider doing some multi-species predator control...



Use lots of different sized rocks & consider covering prime basking spots with chickenwire to protect lizards from cats & birds.

... Position mouse traps on a vertical surface, off the ground – to avoid catching skinks.

Plant native grasses & shrubs – lizards love low-growing plants that receive lots of sunlight. Pick a variety of structurally-complex species including some with native fruits and flowers – these will attract insects and provide food for the lizards too. Just make sure your plants aren't too shady!

Create large piles of rocks and logs – lizards need good sun-basking opportunities & places to hide. Make sure there are lots of small gaps, so that lizards can quickly escape predators.



With some luck, and patience, lizards living nearby might move in. Let them do so on their own – lizards are protected by law, so you cannot handle them without a permit.

I love rocky areas with lots of shrubs. I live in deep rock piles, crevices, and sometimes in trees!

Kōrero gecko



Ground-creeping vines and shrubs are great.



Lizard-friendly plants

- Tussock
- Porcupine shrub
 - Pōhuehue
- Mingimingi / mikimiki
 - Harakeke / flax
 - Matagouri
 - Mānuka
 - Kānuka
 - Speargrass
 - Weeping māpou
- Tī kōuka / cabbage tree
 - Pātōtara
- Inaka / Dracophyllum



Onduline lizard shelters, or wood, can be used to complement natural habitat.