



Koanga

NZ Heritage Plant Material

Kia Ora

Thank you for contacting us regarding old plant material you know about or hold. It is the kaupapa of the Koanga Institute to collect and save, and make available to the public as many of our old trees and seeds as possible.

To enable us to do this in an intelligent way we need to collect as much information from you as possible before we begin a process of trying to propagate the tree/seeds.

Primarily, we are collecting fruit trees that come from the warmer areas of New Zealand. We hold a large collection at Koanga near Wairoa in Hawkes Bay which includes trees from the lower North Island, and the Northern Fruit Tree collection in Northland, which is under the management of Gail Aiken. We also collect berry fruits from all over NZ.

We believe that these fruit trees are a key to our future. They are far more nutritious in many ways than commercial varieties, and because they have survived a long time, and in a range of conditions, including the organic production systems of old, so they are very likely to be highly sought after in the future for families to grow food for themselves. As climate change becomes more noticeable we will be needing fruit trees that are adapted to areas warmer than the climate zone we are currently in, increasing the need for these heritage trees of the northern areas. Berry fruits are well known to contain high levels of nutrients so we are particularly keen to be adding heritage berries to our collection.

Thank you for your interest and support.

INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE KOANGA INSTITUTE RESEARCH COLLECTION.

The following information is required before we are able to accept new plant material, to trial for the Koanga Institute fruit tree collection.

1. We would much prefer samples of the fruit to taste first. It is possible we already have the tree. Every tree we add to our selection block requires many years of looking after – a big investment not taken lightly.
2. When sending us Scionwood/seeds/cuttings, please provide us with the following essential information.

Contact Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Name of tree.....

Do you think this is a made up family name or a commercial name
.....

Do you think this tree was consciously planted.....

Do you know if it was a seedling or grafted.....

Why do you think it is worth collecting?.....

Approximate age of tree.....

Description of fruit

Uses of fruit.....

History/Story of the tree (everything you know or can find out)
(please use additional pages if required.)

Location of tree/orchard

Any known diseases that the tree suffers from.....

If we have agreed to add your tree to our collection we prefer to have scion wood sent to us in the winter, so we can graft in Spring. We occasionally may be able to accept bud wood in summer in which case we'll let you know how to collect that and get it to us.

Instructions for collecting and sending Scionwood.

Method for Collecting Wood

- Collect wood in July when the tree is dormant, before the buds start to swell. For apples you can leave till July. Plums/Peaches etc - you need to take wood in June as they often start to move early. If buds have started to swell, wood will not graft successfully.
- Select last season's growth i.e. the newest wood on the tree. It is usually a different colour to the older wood.
- Ideally pieces should be at least 12 inches (30cm) long and the thickness of a biro pen. 1-2 this length is plenty.
- Old trees often have short thin pieces of new wood so just get the longest and thickest you can find.
- Use sharp sterile secateurs i.e. clean secateurs with meths to avoid any disease contamination.
- Wrap wood immediately in wet newspaper and seal in plastic bag Wrap in strong paper/cardboard, and put in post or courier bag

Ensure it is well labeled with the name of the tree and your name and send to us.

Send the wood immediately to:

Koanga Institute
atten: Kay Baxter, Koanga, 96 Kotare Road, RD5, Wairoa 4195

Thank you for your interest and support.