

Houhere

[*Hoheria populnea*]



Houhere is recognizable by its toothed leaves and stunning white aromatic flowers 2.5 cm in diameter appearing in autumn.

The many-layered lacey bark used for decorative weaving gives it its other names, lacebark, or ribbonwood.

It seeds prolifically with yellowish dry fruit containing a single seed and is shade tolerant so spreads easily.

If you are confusing Houhere for Makomako (*Aristotelia serrata*, Wineberry) just remember that Houhere does not have the red-purple on its leaf underside.

Size

Up to 10m tall

Distribution & Habitat

Found from the North Cape to Waikato in coastal and lowland forests, Houhere will quickly establish in cleared land making it a very hardy species.

Species it attracts

Because Houhere grows so quickly and abundantly it is a great source of nectar for nectar feeding birds such as the Tūī, Tauhou (Silvereye) and Korimako (Bellbird).

Medicinal Properties

When soaked in water the bark of Houhere forms a gel that can be used to treat eye issues.

Where to plant in your garden

Houhere will grow in any well-drained soil. They prefer a sunny or partly shady location and are tolerant to wind.



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