

Māpou *(Myrsine australis)*



A common tree in New Zealand recognizable by its striking red stems and wavy dark green to yellow-green leaves displaying a stark contrast between stem and leaf.

Small cream coloured crowded flowers appear along branchlets from mid-summer to mid-autumn followed by small fruits which are a drupe with a single seed.

They ripen to a purplish-black colour some plants retaining a “seed bank” with fruit remaining dormant on a tree for a year or more.

Size

Shrub tree up to 8m tall

Distribution & Habitat

Found throughout New Zealand mostly at forest margins. Very hardy plant that will grow in most conditions.

Species it attracts

The small fruits will be eaten by Kererū and Korimako (Bellbird), the nectar from the flowers will attract Tūi.

Medicinal Properties

Made into a tonic to treat high cholesterol.

Where to plant in your garden

Māpou is a very easy to care for tree which will grow in most conditions. Even in dry areas. Can also be used and trimmed to a hedge.



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