

Putaputawētā *[Carpodetus serratus]*



One of the unique New Zealand plants that begins life as a juvenile with zig-zagging branchlets. As the tree matures it resembles a classic tree shape, its bark sporting many corky spots and Pepetuna (Pūriri moth) burrows that wētā make their homes in after the caterpillar has vacated. The name Putaputawētā refers to the many wētā living in the tree.

This tree has amazing marbled leaves hence its common name 'Marble leaf' with small, defined, pointed teeth. Little white star-like flowers with a delicious aroma turn to black seed pods in summer.

Size

Up to 10m tall

Distribution & Habitat

Found in coastal and montane forest throughout New Zealand. Prefers deep moist soil.

Species it attracts

Most birds love the seeds and bees are attracted to its flowers.

Where to plant in your garden

Putaputawētā typically grows to 8m tall and 3m wide. It grows best when planted in full sun or part shade on a well-drained site. It does not like to dry out.



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