

Tītoki

(*Alectryon excelsus*)



Tītoki is a small tree with glossy, alternating, spreading leaves with inconspicuous purplish flowers in spring.

Light brown seed capsules appear irregularly eventually exploding to reveal black seed surrounded by what looks like a raspberry.

Its bark is smooth and dark while the twigs are furry with dense brownish hairs. These hairs also grow along the unprotected immature leaves and can remain on the underside of mature leaves.

Often seen manicured and shaped in a tall hedging to extend the height of a fence, forming a thick evergreen wall.

Size

10m tall

Distribution & Habitat

Found from the North Island down to Banks Peninsula, Tītoki is a favourite to plant along roadsides. It occurs naturally in coastal and lowland forest. Seedlings need shade to begin but will then tolerate sun.

Species it attracts

The bursting red fruits attract Tūi and other native birds, along with bees and butterflies.

Medicinal Properties

Oil is pressed from the seed and used to treat skin conditions such as eczema.

Where to plant in your garden

Tītoki grows quickly in well drained, fertile soils in full sun or partial shade.



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