

# Bust those weeds!

Whether it's golden or black sand, estuaries or rocky shores – our Waikato coasts are a precious part of our region and our lifestyle. But our coastlines, including almost all of our Beachcare sites, are being invaded by weeds.

Each year Beachcare group members control thousands of weeds that are invading and destroying native plants on the dunes. These native plants hold our dunes together, create shade, improve the look and character of our beaches and provide places for native birds, animals and insects to flourish. Many of these weeds are transplanted from urban gardens to areas around holiday homes or dumped on reserves and other public areas.

Common Beachcare group targets are boneseed, wattle, agapanthus, bushy asparagus, century plant, pampas, yucca and phoenix palms. There are areas where groups are working together to get rid of weeds and there are also other areas where the weeds are getting away.

Check out the Weedbusters website – [www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz). This site helps you to identify weeds and advise you how to control and dispose of them.

If you have a coastal property, think carefully about what you introduce into these precious dune areas. For more information, check out the table below or contact 0800 800 401.

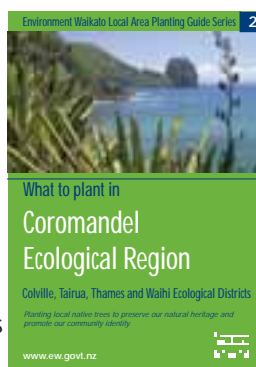


## Plant me instead!

Next time you are pottering around the garden, have a look to see what plants are taking off. Unfortunately many of the plants thriving around the coast are weed species. Are there any in your garden?

Taking out weeds often leaves gaps in your garden. There are a lot of native plants that will grow in the harsh conditions of coastal areas and provide all those garden amenities such as beauty, smell, space filler, shelter and shade.

Here's a list of plants that we recommend for planting to replace weeds at the coast. Environment Waikato has a planting guide for the Coromandel which sets out more specific information. You can request a copy by phoning Environment Waikato's freephone 0800 800 401.



Cabbage tree.



Pohuehue.



Pohutukawa.

Plant type	Plant me instead!
Sculptural plants	Cabbage tree sp. <i>Cordyline australis</i> Flax varieties – <i>Phormium tenax</i> Iris species – <i>Libertia grandiflora</i> , <i>L. ixioides</i> , <i>L. peregrinans</i> Coastal astelia – <i>Astelia banksii</i> .
Shrubs for gardens, small hedges and driveways	Rengarenga – <i>Arthropodium cirratum</i> NZ Blueberry – <i>Dianella nigra</i> , <i>D. intermedia</i> NZ iris – <i>Libertia grandiflora</i> , <i>L. ixioides</i> , <i>L. peregrinans</i> Shrubby tororaro – <i>Muehlenbeckia astonii</i> Mingimingi – <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> .
Trees for shelter and shade	Pohutukawa, Karo, Houpara/Coastal five finger – <i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i> .
Groundcovers and grasses	Pohuehue – <i>Muehlenbeckia Complexa</i> Sand Caprosma – <i>Caprosma Acerosa</i> .