

Tuesday, 2 August 2022

*Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga*  
**Hastings District Council**  
**Eco District Subcommittee Meeting**

## *Kaupapataka*

# Agenda

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*Te Rā Hui:*  
Meeting date: **Tuesday, 2 August 2022**

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*Te Wā:*  
Time: **1.00pm**

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*Te Wāhi:*  
Venue: **Council Chamber  
Ground Floor  
Civic Administration Building  
Lyndon Road East  
Hastings**

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*Te Hoapā:*  
Contact: **Democracy and Governance Services  
P: 06 871 5000 | E: [democracy@hdc.govt.nz](mailto:democracy@hdc.govt.nz)**

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*Te Āpiha Matua:*  
Responsible  
Officer: **Group Manager: Asset Management - Craig Thew**

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## Eco District Subcommittee – Terms of Reference

A Subcommittee of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

### Context

The Eco District Strategy works in tandem with the District Development and Great Communities Strategies. This forms the environmental lens to our business, recognising that the other strategies have a more primary focus on both the Economic, and Social/Cultural wellbeing dimensions of the Local Government Act 2002.

It recognises that for real success environmental wellbeing cannot be traded for economic gain and that we want a future-focused district that plans and cares about the future, enhancing its natural and built environment. We need to rise to the challenges of the future and realise the benefits to society from creating clean energy, lowering carbon emissions and reducing our ecological footprint. Our response to changes in our economy, society and climate must leave our environment in a better place. A key role for Council is to grow our district in a sustainable way.

### Fields of Activity

The Eco District Subcommittee is responsible for advising the Strategy and Policy Committee by;

- Providing guidance to Council officers in respect of the drafting of Council's ECO District Strategies and providing oversight of any relevant Special Consultative Procedures.
- Providing oversight of the implementation of the Council's ECO District Strategies.
- Providing oversight of the implementation of Councils Green Corridor, Reserve Management Plans, Climate Change, Coastal Hazards, Sustainability and Biodiversity strategies.

### Membership

- 7 Councillors.
- 1 Heretaunga Takoto Noa Māori Standing Committee Member appointed by Council.
- Chair appointed by Council.
- Deputy Chair appointed by Council.

### Quorum – 3 members

### Delegated Powers

- 1) To review and provide comment on draft new or revised ECO District Strategies and to recommend to the Strategy and Policy Committee the adoption of draft Strategies for consultation.
- 2) To recommend to the Strategy and Policy Committee the final wording of any new or reviewed ECO District Strategy for adoption by the Committee or Council.
- 3) To review and provide comment on new or revised Reserve Management Plans and to recommend to the Strategy and Policy Committee the adoption of draft Reserve Management Plans for consultation.

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**Hastings District Council**

**Eco District Subcommittee Meeting**

*Kaupapataka*

# Agenda

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*Mematanga:*

**Membership:**

*Koromatua*

**Chair:** Councillor Ann Redstone

*Ngā KaiKaunihera*

**Councillors:** Alwyn Corban, Eileen Lawson, Simon Nixon, Peleti Oli, Wendy Schollum and Sophie Siers (Deputy Chair)

Heretaunga Takoto Noa Māori Standing Committee appointee: Ngaio Tiuka

Youth Council appointees: Jorja Earley and Thomas Jenson – Bowen Steffert (alternate).

Rural Community Board appointee: Jonathan Stockley

Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst

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*Tokamatua:*

**Quorum:**

3 members

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*Apiha Matua*

**Officer Responsible:**

Group Manager: Asset Management – Craig Thew

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*Te Rōpū Manapori me te  
Kāwanatanga*

**Democracy &**

**Governance Services:**

Lynne Cox (Extn 5632)

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## *Te Rārangi Take*

# Order of Business

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### *Apologies – Ngā Whakapāhatanga*

- 1.0** At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.  
At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.
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### **2.0** *Conflict of Interest – He Ngākau Kōnatunatu*

Members need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to scan the agenda and assess their own private interests and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be perceptions of conflict of interest.

If a Member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the relevant item of business and withdraw from participating in the meeting. If a Member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the General Counsel or the Manager: Democracy and Governance (preferably before the meeting).

It is noted that while Members can seek advice and discuss these matters, the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

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### *Confirmation of Minutes – Te Whakamana i Ngā Minitī*

- 3.0** Minutes of the Eco District Subcommittee Meeting held Tuesday 11 March 2021.  
(Previously circulated)
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### **4.0** *Review of Greenspace Levels of Service and Plant Palette Options* **7**

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### **5.0** *Minor Items – Ngā Take Iti*

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### **6.0** *Urgent Items – Ngā Take Whakahihiri*

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Tuesday, 2 August 2022

Item 4

*Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga*

**Hastings District Council: Eco District Subcommittee Meeting**

*Te Rārangi Take*

# Report to Eco District Subcommittee

**Nā:**  
**From:** Colin Hosford, Public Spaces and Building Assets Manager

**Te Take:**  
**Subject:** Review of Greenspace Levels of Service and Plant Palette Options

## 1.0 Executive Summary – *Te Kaupapa Me Te Whakarāpopototanga*

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the endorsement of the Eco District Subcommittee on a range of service level and open space enhancement reductions in order to address unbudgeted additional cost in the current financial year.
- 1.2 The proposal arises as a result of projected unexpected new costs arising primarily due to the rising cost of inflation affecting the day to day maintenance of the open space network.
- 1.3 The report concludes by offering a balanced offering of service level reductions that should be acceptable if not largely unnoticeable to the community.

## 2.0 Recommendations - *Ngā Tūtohunga*

- A) That the Eco District Subcommittee receive the report titled Review of Greenspace Levels of Service and Plant Palette Options dated 2 August 2022.
- B) That the Eco District Subcommittee endorses the following actions;
  - a. The proposed range of service level reductions as proposed in Table 2, of the Report in A) above,
  - b. The reduction and deferment of landscape enhancements reductions across the parks area as contained in Table 4, of the Report in A) above,
  - c. The use of the draft Open Spaces Plant Palette 2022 contained in attachment 1 (Ref. CFM-15-2-22-504).

### 3.0 Background – *Te Horopaki*

- 3.1 Due to the ongoing desire to promote a more sustainable open space planting programme and a need to effectively contain the current escalating inflation within existing budgets, officers have undertaken a review of current levels of service across all open space areas with a view to both holding and cutting costs, and to ultimately avoid rates increases.
- 3.2 A range of service level change options to achieve savings across the parks area were considered in a recent Council Workshop. Officers have been asked to return to the Eco District Subcommittee with cost cutting options and seek the sub committee's endorsement of preferred actions.
- 3.3 In addition to reduced level of service options, officers have also undertaken a review of the range of plants utilised in planting programmes, with a view to adopting a more cost effective plant selection. The proposed regime moves away from a reliance on short lived annual bedding plants, to a palette of perennial shrubs that will reduce resource use with the inclusion of more sustainable hardy, drought resistant, longer lived perennial species.
- 3.4 Due to the unexpected constraints of high inflation, a number of potential open space landscape opportunities that were earlier considered by Eco District Subcommittee also need to be reassessed as the increased costs cannot be catered for in the existing funding streams. The projects that the committee had earlier considered and largely supported included enhanced traffic median plantings and a proposed regime for increased care and maintenance regimes for a hierarchy of Districtwide roundabout treatments.

### 4.0 Discussion – *Te Matapakitanga*

- 4.1 Within the open space area budget, there is a projected shortfall in funding of \$450,000. The budget shortfall is due to a number of items as listed in table 1 below;

Increased rental for Maintenance Group Rental	\$ 90,000
Contract variations	\$ 70,000
Inflation Adjustments	\$230,000
Roundabout enhancements (Eco District Recommendation)	\$ 23,000
Landscape strip enhancements (Eco District Recommendation)	\$ 37,000
Shortfall Total	<b>\$450,000</b>

**Table 1**

- 4.2 As Council has advised that there will be no additional increases to the 2022/23 budget to cover these increased costs, officers have reviewed the following areas to cut costs;
- Reduce service levels
  - More sustainable and cost effective plant palettes
  - Delay level of service enhancements.
- 4.3 The following discussion outlines the likely effects of changes to service levels across the open space team

#### 4.4 Reduce Service Levels

- 4.5 Officers recommend the bulk of the savings can be attained through the modest reduction of service levels across a variety of parks operations activities as follows;

Activity	Reduction %	Savings \$
Mowing	3.0%	\$ 35,000
Response/unscheduled Work	10%	\$ 30,000
Turf care	3.0%	\$ 50,000
No winter hanging baskets	50%	\$ 25,000
Reduce annuals	50%	\$ 80,000
Misc reduced maintenance items	5%	\$ 37,000
Reduced renewals (trees soft/hard landscaping	10%	\$133,000
Defer landscape strip /rab enhancements (Eco)		\$ 50,000
Total (proposed savings)		<b>\$450,000</b>

**Table 2**

- 4.6 The reduction in service levels will see modest change to the open space environment.
- Turf - In some areas turf will be let grow a little longer due to reduced mowing cycles. There will also be reduced turf care such as edging, weed spray and fertilising
  - Response Team – there will be a reduced ability to quickly respond to minor issues raised by the public. Some tasks will need to be deferred until the team can roll up various tasks and address multiple issues more effectively and efficiently
  - With no winter hanging baskets the Hastings CBD will be a little less bright
  - The reduction in annuals will reduce the bold impact they have but this should be balanced by the rollout of a more diverse colourful perennials palette. Key annual displays as seen in Flaxmere Park, Cornwall Park and the Havelock North central roundabout will be retained
  - The reduced spend across the renewal budget line will see reduced tree removal and replanting and a general response to do critical works for safety and some other tasks will be deferred
  - By deferring the suggested landscape strip and roundabout enhancements an unbudgeted cost avoided in the current financial, but the proposals can be resurrected next year should funding improve through efficiency savings.
- 4.7 **More sustainable and cost effective plant palettes**
- 4.8 Officers have undertaken the first part of a review of our plant palettes to reduce the use of short lived annuals across a variety of garden beds. The first part of the review recommends a move to a range of more cost effective shrubs that are drought resistant, have lower maintenance requirements, while providing good visual impact. These changes seek to reduce overall costs to the ratepayer while maintaining our higher level amenity goals. It is anticipated that the existing parks renewals budget will help fund new perennial plantings, by replacing the labour intensive and seasonal annuals.
- 4.9 With the need to save funds immediately, this change in palette will be progressively run out over the next two years. The first targeted or priority areas will be to replant some of the lower profile

roundabout gardens that currently have garden plots with annuals. By doing it this way the level of amenity can be retained while saving the costs of the selected annual beds.

- 4.10 The proposed new planting palette that will see the shift away from the use of annual flowers to more colourful perennials. The palette includes a range of drought resistant species to help reduce our dependence on irrigation in summer, when we typically struggle with water supply.
- 4.11 The new palette also increasingly promotes native bio-diversity with the inclusion of some 20 odd native plant species. **(Attachment 1)** The palette will provide more scope for natives that provide additional habitat for native fauna including bees. Key native shrubs include flaxes, grasses, coprosma, muehlenbeckia and dwarf manuka.
- 4.12 Over time the new palette will help reduce the cost of soft landscaping by promoting the use of long lasting perennials while reducing costly annual flower beds.
- 4.13 The key principles of plant selection includes, drought tolerance, ability to be long lived, promote bio-diversity, display vibrant colour and promoting native species.
- 4.14 Officers also note that the palette is essentially a first draft and is the initial step in developing a go to planting palette for all ecologies and habitats across all of the district. It is by no means the definitive plant list but at this stage gives vibrant plant options for roundabout plantings and annual bed replacement species. It will be added to with new plants species. By adopting this first iteration, officers can advance with new colourful species while starting the replacement of some of the expensive short lived flowering annuals, when they fail.
- 4.15 **Delaying of level of service enhancements**
- 4.16 The Subcommittee will recall how it considered a range of landscape enhancements at its last meeting. Issues considered included;
- Council consider adopting a hierarchy of treatment for districtwide roundabouts based on location and function. The enhancements considered included increased mowing frequencies, enhanced turf treatment and increased shrub plantings
  - Enhanced biodiversity in public area plantings
  - Proposed increased beautification and plantings to enhance key landscape areas (such as medians) and to help “cool” urban areas with increased plantings and increased levels of maintenance.
- 4.17 While there was Committee support for many of the initiatives, the improvements come with significant additional costs. As the effects of unbudgeted inflation need to be addressed first, many of these actions are nice to have but clearly are not affordable in the current economic climate.
- 4.18 In particular, it is noted that the recommended treatment of the Crosses Road roundabout is now pitched at what was described as a medium enhancement. This approach recognises the new roundabout is a significant gateway to Havelock North that is worthy of and will require a considerable area of landscaping. Three options were priced as per the table 3 below;

Option	Implementation	Maintenance cost pa
Low (shrubs in centre and road grass in berms)	\$42,500	\$ 600
Medium	\$57,000	\$12,900
High	\$66,500	\$17,070

**Table 3**

- 4.19 The medium level treatment proposed for the Crosses Road roundabout includes a balanced planting mix that utilises a variety native and exotic hardy and colourful shrubs, while also including wider grassed areas to help reduce maintenance costs.

- 4.20 In regard to the wider enhancements considered by the Eco Districts Sub, Therefore officers have needed to rationalise the requests in an attempt to shoehorn new works into the 2022/23 budget. This essentially means some key works can proceed while others cannot. The list of enhancement actions that Eco District Subcommittee considered, and officers' proposed new approach for meeting the fiscal challenges of 2022/23, are listed in Table 4 below.

Item	Enhancement Cost impact	Proposed action(s)
Enhanced treatment of existing roundabouts	\$30,000	No change - Maintain status quo. Roll out new planting palette. Reconsider in 12 months
Landscape strips	\$45,000	No change - Maintain status quo. Reconsider in 12 months
Crosses Road roundabout	\$57,000	Undertake medium treatment from existing streetscape funds
Napier Road landscape strip	\$136,000	Reconsider in 12 months – and canvass other options to reduce cost impact on ratepayer.
Total	\$268,000	

Table 4

## 5.0 Options – Ngā Kōwhiringa

Option One - Recommended Option - Te Kōwhiringa Tuatahi – Te Kōwhiringa Tūtohunga

- 5.1 The Eco District Subcommittee endorses; (a) the proposed range of service level reductions as proposed in Table 2, (b) the reduction and deferment of landscape enhancements reductions across the parks area as contained in Table 4, and (c) the use of draft Open Spaces Plant Palette 2022-23 contained in **Attachment 1**.

### Advantages

- The proposed cuts to service levels will be spread over multiple parks activity areas and will therefore likely have only negligible impact on park users
- The proposed cuts will avoid the need to overspend the parks budget and therefore have no financial impact on the ratepayer
- The new planting palette will promote a more sustainable regime of landscape plants that are easy to maintain and will promote colour and variety in a more cost effective way.
- The new planting palette will provide more scope for native plantings that promote bio-diversity and provide additional habitat for native fauna including bees.
- The new planting palette also includes a range of drought resistant plants that do not require irrigation and thereby reduce water dependence, especially in summer when we are increasingly called upon to conserve and reduce water usage.
- The proposed treatment of the new Crosses Road roundabout will provide an attractive eastern gateway to Havelock North, within existing capital and maintenance budget allocations
- By endorsing the proposed reductions now, the required changes to the parks maintenance contract can be put in place and spread over the whole financial year.

- By deferring some of the potential enhancements, Council will be able to keep inside the current budget but can also return and reconsider options in future years

#### Disadvantages

- The reduction in renewal funds will mean that some works will need to be deferred for one year. This may meet with some local area resistance or disappointment
- The move away from large displays of annual flower beds may see some public disappointment due to the perceived lack of colour
- Tree removal and replacement will be slowed down so the removal of a nuisance tree, requested by the public, may need to be deferred which may create complaints
- The deferment of some of the requested service level improvements will see ongoing complaints about key roundabouts and landscape strips. This will require sensitive community management.

#### Option Two – Te Kōwhiringa Tuarua

- 5.2 That the Eco Districts Subcommittee recommend alternate reductions across other park budget areas.
- 5.3 Officers note that there are other areas that could be considered for costs savings. These could include;
- having no Christmas decorations
  - no summer hanging baskets
  - further reductions in parks renewals

#### Advantages

- Some of the annuals beds could be retained
- The turf areas could be maintained to the current high specification

#### Disadvantages

- Next Christmas in our urban areas would be a well below expected and likely draw criticism
- By further reducing the parks renewal spend it will cost more in future years to catch up on the replacement of failing assets.
- Other cost saving are likely to be more noticeable to the public and draw criticism
- By delaying an endorsement of the proposed action, opportunities to spread savings across the whole financial year will be lost. This will make future savings more acutely felt

## 6.0 Next steps – *Te Anga Whakamua*

- 6.1 While the recommended reductions will have an impact on the look of our open space network, officers believe the balance of reductions suggested will have only minor effect. In addition some of the changes to the planting palette will promote a more sustainable and ecologically responsive planting regime that will reduce water usage, offer additional native plantings and enhance the key Crosses Road roundabout as this Sub-Committee has aspired to achieve.
- 6.2 With the Committee's endorsement, officers will activate the proposed changes immediately. It is also noted that there will always be unexpected challenges arising as the year progresses. Officers will seek to deal with these pragmatically as and when they occur to ensure Hastings District is presented in the best light possible.

## Attachments:



## Summary of Considerations - *He Whakarāpopoto Whakaarohanga*

### Fit with purpose of Local Government - *E noho hāngai pū ai ki te Rangatōpū-ā-Rohe*

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as set out in section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by (and on behalf of) communities, and to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.

### Link to the Council's Community Outcomes – *Ngā Hononga ki Ngā Putanga ā-Hapori*

This proposal promotes the social, recreational and economic wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.

### Māori Impact Statement - *Te Tauākī Kaupapa Māori*

The proposed changes should have no effects on Māori over that of the wider community.

### Sustainability - *Te Toitūtanga*

The planned changes to the planting palettes recommend the use of more sustainable, drought resistant plants with an increasing use of native species.

### Financial considerations - *Ngā Whakaarohanga Ahumoni*

The proposed actions make no call on rates but rather seek to hold funding to the status quo

### Significance and Engagement - *Te Hiranga me te Tūhonotanga*

This report has been assessed under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as being of low significance.

### Consultation – internal and/or external - *Whakawhiti Whakaaro-ā-roto / ā-waho*

The decision to reduce levels of service and save \$450,000 is an operational matter that requires Council's guidance. The effect on the wider community is deemed to be no more than minor and need not be consulted on.

### Risks

Opportunity – the proposed actions will allow Council to keep expenditure within the existing budget while keeping the reduction levels of service to a minimum

REWARD – <i>Te Utu</i>	RISK – <i>Te Tūraru</i>
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<p>Council can continue operations without needing to overspend its current budget</p> <p>A new palette of more sustainable plantings can be promoted which in time will reduce costs while promoting more sustainable landscape options</p> <p>The proposal is the most prudent financial response</p>	<p>Council may receive increased complaints as some open space elements will not be presented in the current condition</p> <p>The renewal of some items will be deferred which will put additional pressure on future years' renewal budgets as we will be put somewhat in catch up mode.</p>
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### **Rural Community Board – Te Poari Tuawhenua-ā-Hapori**

The proposed changes should have no effects on rural community over that of the wider community.



# PLANT PALETTE 22-23: SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & ANNUALS



Table of Contents

**Considerations**..... 2

**Shrubs** ..... 3

Small box hedging plants ..... 3

Big hedging plants..... 7

Bushy shrubs.....9

Shrubs: Groundcovers.....14

**Perennials** ..... 22

Groundcovers..... 22

Bushy perennials..... 26

**Annuals** ..... 38

Summer annuals ..... 38

Winter annuals..... 44

## Considerations:

- Climate: La Nina vs El Nino – currently in La Nina (wet summer)
- Need good Irrigation management with weather forecasting
- Encourage additional use of form plants or high impact perennial shrub plants in place of high maintenance annual plants \$\$\$\$
- Lists include high impact, long flowering annual arrangements with strong solid colour contrast
- No variegated
- Strong recommendation on Summer season with proactively managed irrigation
- List includes more evergreen plants to avoid dormancy during non-seasonal periods.

### N.B:

Summer annuals include plants that germinate during early spring or early summer and start blooms all summer and beyond.

Winter annuals: Plants that live through the winter and blooms in winter.

## Shrubs: Form plants

### Small box hedging plants:

#### **Buxus microphylla**

It tolerates shade, drought, urban pollution and tough growing conditions. Best hedging plants, the compact habit & attractive bright green with glossy foliage. It is the quick growing variety of buxus plant. It grows up to 2m height with low maintenance. Colour: Glossy Green



#### **Coprosma black cloud:**

An evergreen, compact plant with a spreading habit. Grows up to 20cm tall and 1m wide. This coprosma has beautiful small dark brown/green foliage, darkening to near black in winter. Flowers are produced but are insignificant. For best results, plant in full sun to partial shade, with well-drained soil. This coprosma tolerates coastal conditions and is frost hardy.



## Hebe emerald green



Fantastic Evergreen NZ native great for sunny spots, fantastic when flowering, very easy care. Oval domes of bright green tightly packed foliage with dainty clusters of white flowers appearing in summer. This is a plant that is known for its low maintenance habit and happy in the sun. Plant in any soil except for water logged soils. In early spring bears masses of white flowers. Lightly trim after flowering to encourage new growth. Tolerant of exposed situations. Prefers full sun. Hardy. Height up to 0.5 to 1m.

## Westringia fruticose grey box



Grey Box Westringia provides great colour contrast with Small white flowers emerge in spring, and cover the fine silvery foliage. Excellent for living sculptural forms in your gardens or as a low, bordering plant. Also very smart clipped in containers. Great as a hedge or left unpruned in its natural ball shape. A great drought tolerant. Growing a bushy, compact evergreen shrub around 0.5m tall & 0.5 m wide.



## **Nandina Firepower**



Compact, rounded shrub producing conical clusters of small, star-shaped white flowers in mid-summer among bamboo-like leaves. In autumn, the leaves turn shades of fiery red and copper and the flowers are followed by shiny, round, scarlet fruits. Plant in full sun or partial shade in soil that is moist but well drained. Height: 1.00 to 2.00 • Bloom Time: June • Sun: Full sun to part shade • Tolerate: Drought, Heavy Shade

## **Teucrium fruitcans**

Striking silver foliage which is perfect for clipping makes this plant an excellent hedge specimen. Easy care and quick to form a hedge, Silver Germander will grow in full sun or part shade. Pretty lavender flowers in spring.





### **Lonicera nitida**

This plant is now mostly used as an alternative option to box hedging as it can be trimmed to look like a formal hedge. An evergreen, bushy shrub growing to 2m tall and 2m wide dependant on pruning. Leaves are dark green, ovate to broadly ovate and produced in pairs. Flowers are tiny, cream and tubular. Prefers full sun to semi-shade and humus-rich, fertile, well-drained soil.



### **Coprosma pacific sunset**

Beautiful wavy foliage boasts bright-red centres with burgundy edges. Make superb medium- height hedges give box effect. This tough plant has low water needs, no pest or disease issues, and exceptional heat tolerates high wind or salt spray. They grow well in full sun through to part shade; they cope very well when water is scarce. Grows in 1.5m \*1.5m height & width.



## Big hedge plants:

### Corokia geentys green

This native evergreen is fast becoming fashionable for its hedging and bordering appearance. With its dense, hardy, pale green foliage, it offers a neutral and maintenance free back drop to many planting plans. It is suitable in almost all New Zealand soils and climatic situations and, once established. It prefers full sun, but will also do okay in shady positions. Most Corokia are particularly tolerant to windy positions and dry conditions. Salt wind will not bother them, making them a very good choice for coastal plantings. Grows up to 2m H & 1m W.



### Escallonia

Most popular hedging varieties. Has the ability to tolerate drought and lime soils. All the Escallonia are hardy and especially useful for their ability to withstand coastal exposure. Low maintenance prefer full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil. Evergreen foliage with flowering period ranging from May to August.



## Photinia Red Robin



Photinia Red Robin

It is a stunning plant that is commonly used for hedging, a magnificent sight with the brilliant red foliage at the tips. A very hardy plant that will require one to two trims per year to maintain a nice hedge. It has glossy evergreen leaves all year round, and rich red new foliage.

## BUSHY SHRUBS

### **Loropetalum Chinese burgundy**



Compact bushy shrub with graceful, arching branches. Flowers are creamy white and appear from winter through spring. Best in a sunny well drained spot. Size: 1.5m H & 1m W.

### **Choisya ternate**



This hardy evergreen shrub with glossy dark green leaves has clusters of white flowers from late spring to early summer. Tolerant of dry conditions and prevailing winds, Choisya ternata is tough and versatile, withstanding even the harshest of weather conditions. Performing best in full sun or part shade, this star performer is a wonderful choice for gap filling and hedging. Whilst naturally forming a dome shape, Choisya ternata will grow to 2 metres by 1.5



metres. Prefers well-drained sunny sites. Withstands light frost. Flowering season spring to early summer with white colour.

### **Callistemon salignus 'Great Balls of Fire:**



Great as a hedge as easily clipped to shape. It is drought tolerant and low maintenance. A dense, compact, evergreen shrub growing to around 3m tall and 3m wide depending on pruning. Leaves are small, pointed and leathery. New growth is pink to bright red. This cultivar rarely flowers as it has been bred for its colourful foliage. Once established it will tolerate a wide range of conditions including coastal sites.

### **Liriope Muscari Royal Purple**

Dark purple flowers from early summer to autumn, followed by black berries above grassy green foliage. Excellent as garden edging or for under planting trees where many other plants won't grow. Deep shade to full sun. Low maintenance. Dry tolerant. Evergreen. Hardy. Also a choice to fill in that bare spots in garden.



## **Raphiolepis indica**

Indian Hawthorn. A dense evergreen shrub with leathery dark green leaves and white or pink fragrant flowers in spring and summer.



## **Phormium 'Emerald Gem'** – Dwarf green flax to 700mm.



## **Lomandra little lime**

A compact, clumping, ornamental grass with lime green foliage. Similar in habit to tussock grass, but rarely needs trimming. Useful for mass plantings, foliage or grassy gardens, for borders or as an accent plant. Tolerates a wide range of climatic conditions, full sun to part shade. Very hardy, excellent drought and frost tolerance. 'Little Lime' is an Australian native and is often used on roadside plantings where it performs and looks great, with no irrigation, only natural rainfall. In extra dry environments, occasional top up watering may be required in the warmer months.



## **Apodasmia similis**

This NZ native reed is a great choice for wet or dry problem areas. Also known as jointed rush as the delicate grey-green leaves have brown markings or joints at various points along the leaf length. It grows in full sun and prefers damp, swampy areas and can grow in water also. It will also tolerate dry areas once established and is also suitable to growing in containers. It can cover large areas as it spreads by runners. Grows to H 1m x W 1.5m



## **Ficinia nodosa**

A perennial, native rush forming clumps of dark green stems and flowers throughout the year. Thrives best in a damp, wet situations such as inland and coastal wetlands. Likes full sun, is hardy and grows to between 70cm and 100cm. Also known as “Knobby Club rush”. Low maintenance and tolerant of harsh conditions, requires little care once established.



## **Dietes grandiflora**

A versatile plant with strappy green leaves and a very attractive multi coloured flower in spring and summer. It thrives in dry windy conditions with difficult soils.





## SHRUBS: GROUND COVERS

### **Muehlenbeckia axillaris**



Dense groundcover, with wiry stems and small, dark-green leaves. Muehlenbeckia axillaris flowers prolifically in summer, with masses of small, creamy flowers. Male and female flowers often occur on the same plant and the female flowers form small, opaque white fruit. It spreads along the ground and even underground. Grows to a height of 15cm and a width of 1m. Likes the full sun and tolerates dry situations.

### **Calocephalus brownie (Cushion bush)**

Evergreen shrub with an unusual mounding growth habit. Foliage is silvery-white with button-like, yellow blooms. Full sun produces best growth and flowering results. Tolerates sea spray and salty air. Excellent ground cover or rock garden plant. Plant is drought tolerant once established. Bloom in Mid-summer.



### **Pimelea prostrata silver ghost**



An attractive ground covering plant with silvery leaves and covered in perfumed white flowers spring and early summer. Silver ghost has an attractive mounding habit which makes it suitable for many garden situations. Excellent for rockeries tolerating dry and exposed sites. The cascading habit of Pimelea silver Ghost make it a versatile plant for any garden. Grows approximately 10cm high with a spread of 75cm.

Prefers a sunny position with regular watering while establishing. Easy care and hardy this plant will grow in almost any garden. A light trim each year will keep it compact. An annual application of fertiliser will encourage more flowering. Tolerates light frost.

### **Carex Oshimensis everillo**

Makes an elegant weeping mound with gorgeous, golden green foliage. Superb groundcover and will brighten a shady spot. Looks beautiful cascading over walls or in colourful containers. Tolerates dry shade with occasional watering. Not for full sun. Grows to H 45cm x W 60cm.



## **Trachelospermum jasminoides**



Climbing plant producing glossy, deep green leaves and intensely fragrant, pure white, starry flowers throughout summer. Ideal screening plant and useful as a groundcover. Sun to part-shade. Hardy. Evergreen.

## **Coprosma repens poor knights**



A semi prostrate growing coprosma with vibrant glossy green leaves. Great coast hardy ground cover tolerant to dry conditions. A lovely lush look for the tropical garden. Hardy Grows to H 0.6m x W 1m.

### **Coprosma acerosa hawera**



An evergreen shrub with a spreading habit. Grows up to 60cm tall and 2m wide. A very compact form of Coprosma acerosa, which grows flat to the ground. It forms a tight mass of small, olive green leaves. Overall colour and appearance is lime green. Forms a tight mat of small green leaves. Its branches are yellowish. This plant is known to withstand foot traffic and the occasional vehicle, so is extra tough for those areas where plants struggle to grow. Tolerate strong wind and drought.

### **Ceanothus blue cushion**



A hardy spreading, sun-loving plant smothered in deep lilac-blue flowers in spring. This is a fast-growing evergreen shrub that forms a mound. Has pale blue flowers from spring through into summer. Plant in full sun where soils are well-drained. Hardy and suitable for growing in coastal locations. Tolerates frost and periods of drought. The spreading habit makes it useful as a ground cover and as it is dry tolerant is great under the eaves of the house. It covers the ground in a dense carpet making it ideal for a dry



bank. Height up to 75cm with a spread of 1.5m. They are keen to flower that will often get them to flower twice May and then October.

### **Westringia mundi & Westringia 'Low Horizon'**



A tough and beautiful ground cover shrub with masses of flowers. Needs no pruning to maintain a neat form but takes well to shearing. Ideal for tough spots where you need an attractive, low growing plant that requires minimal care. Highly drought tolerant when established.

### **Coprosma taiko**





An evergreen, prostrate shrub that grows up to 30cm tall and 1.5m wide. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Will grow in a range of conditions, including dry positions, but will not tolerate heavy frosts. Possesses shiny, dark green foliage that turns purple in winter. Produces tiny, inconspicuous flowers that are followed by bright blue berries in autumn. This is a vigorous prostrate shrub.

### **Agapanthus – dwarf white & blue**

Dark green strappy leaves to 300mm with blue or white flower. A fast growing perennial, impressive when planted in mass. Attracts butterflies. Low maintenance.



## **Rosmarinus prostrata**

Dwarf Rosemary. Low growing hardy plant which forms mats with light blue clustered flowers. Very effective ground cover. Bright green to dark green foliage.



## **Cerastium tomentosum**

A reliable ground cover favourite that forms carpets of silver-grey stems and leaves. Star-shaped flowers occur from late spring into summer. Prolific if conditions suit.





**Hedera helix & Hedera canariensis**— Ivy. Very hardy exotic groundcover. Dark green foliage year round. Very low maintenance.





## Ground covers: Perennials

### Grevillae Bronze Rambler



An evergreen, prostrate shrub that grows up to 20cm tall and 1.2m wide. Deeply lobed bronze foliage contrast well with the bright red/pink flowers in spring. Prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Tolerates poor soil and dryness when established and flowers freely in sunny positions.

### Scabiosa mauve delight



Compact ground cover perennial with masses of light mauve. Flowers early summer to mid-winter, full sun, 60cm high x60cm wide. Comment: Need plenty of moisture in drier periods.

### **Phlomis russeliana Turkish sage**

evergreen perennial with large heart shaped leaves, yellow flowers in summer, hardy, excellent ground cover, full sun, 30cm high x 60cm wide



### **Heuchera grande black**

Large leathery leaves in black to dark burgundy this variety is twice the size of regular Heuchera, shade, 45cm high x 55cm wide. Comment: Shade loving plant and need frequent watering.



### **Dymondia margaretae silver carpet**



A low growing, evergreen perennial, ground cover growing to 0.05m tall and 0.5m wide. Bright yellow daisy-like flowers are produced through summer. Leaves are 3cm long and narrow. Green above and grey on the underside. Prefers full sun with well-drained soil. It will, however, tolerate open, exposed sites on poor soil with salt spray and drought conditions.

### **Stonecrop –dragon’s blood**

An excellent rock-hardy plant! Flowering late spring and summer. They enjoy full sun, but some shade is OK. A reliable, hardy and easy to grow perennial, Sedums provide colour and interest to your garden from spring to the first snow of winter. One of the easiest ground covers to grow. Easy to maintain and needs little water. Does great in poor soil. Red edged leaves with grey overtones on red stems. Rose flowers reappear all summer. Destined to be just as popular as Dragon s Blood. Plant in full sun.



## Nepta

Attractive, hardy and easy-to-grow flowering perennial, renowned for its aromatic foliage. Catmint needs a sunny position and must have soil that drains freely, so avoid heavy soil such as clay which is prone to becoming waterlogged. Most catmints are tolerant of drought, particularly those with silvery-grey leaves. Catmints are generally fairly low growing and ideal to plant near the front of a border, close to a path or in a raised bed, to spill out and soften the edges. Once established, catmint is easy to grow and requires little care. Flowers are produced over a long period. Once growth dies back in late autumn, cut back the dead stems before new growth appears in spring. Flowering period starting from June till October.

Species are: *Nepeta cataria*, *Nepeta* 'Junior Walker', *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant', *Nepeta* x *faassenii* with height and width of 60cm \*45cm.



## Hellebores (winter rose)

Great for incorporating into shady mixed borders or naturalising under trees in beds. A semi-evergreen, clumping perennial growing to 0.3m tall and 0.3m wide. Perform well in shade, semi- shade and in fertile, well-drained soil and water well during extended dry periods. Flowering during winter.





## BUSHY PERENNIALS

### **Salvia microphylla**

An open, spreading woody, evergreen, perennial growing to 1m tall and 0.7m wide. Leaves are ovate to elliptic, slightly hairy, aromatic and grey-green in colour. From late summer through autumn bright red, magenta, pink or purple flowers are produced in loose racemes. Prefers full sun and well-drained soil.



### **Salvia splendens**

A compact evergreen perennial growing 45cm and 30m wide. Salvia blooms nonstop from spring to autumn. Leaves are bright to dark green elliptical and toothed. Plant full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. Easy grow and fairly pest and disease free, little dead heading. Verities: Salvia red velvet, salvia so cool purple, salvia red hot sally, salvia so cool violet and salvia glare, salvia Victoria blue



### **Dwarf manuka/ *Leptospermum nanum* tui**

A dwarf cultivar of *Leptospermum* or Manuka that only grows to a height of about 50cm. It has dark green foliage and large, single pink flowers that appear in late winter and through into spring. Grows in all type soil where there is either full sun or semi-shade. Tolerates coastal conditions and is frost hardy. Evergreen native.



### **Gaura lindheimeri: sparkle white & crimson butterflies**

This is variety is white with a touch of pink as the buds open. Gaura enjoys a particularly long flowering season which is normally from early summer right the way through into autumn. **This is variety is white with a touch of pink as the buds open. Gaura enjoys a particularly long flowering season which is normally from early summer right the way through into autumn.** The great thing about this plant is that it is low care and it thrives on neglect. It is drought tolerant once established and tolerates heat, humidity, full sun and partial shade. **It is winter dormant.**





## **Dreameria daydream**

Hardy clump forming perennial with masses of pink or white globe shaped flowers held on strong upright stems, remove spent flowers to get a second flush, drought tolerant and able to tolerate water restrictions, full sun to partial shade, 6cm height & 30cm spread.



## **Dreameria dream clouds & Dreameria dream weaver**

A stunning pure white form of the popular and hardy Dreameria range, Dreameria 'Dream Clouds' is the first true white in this range, with the sturdy stems and dense and abundant flowering seen in the first releases, but it's white. This is a very special Dreameria which will be ideal for front of border where you want a low edge of white flowers, with attractive green foliage clumps when not in flower. Hardy to most conditions once established. Height up to 20cm with long flowering season.



### **Dreameria sweet dreams**



### **Lampranthus: cocktail explosion, cornal explosion, mauve explosion, raspberry explosion**

Ground cover perennial, extra dense long lasting summerflower carpet, forming a mat of colour, full sun and dry tolerant, 40cm high x 80cm wide. Comment: Recommend



## **Leucanthemum: banana cream, paladin**

Compact disease resistant perennial, Banana cream - lemon yellow flowers all summer 60cm high x 45cm wide, Paladin -white flower with yellow eye, 40cm high x 50cm wide; remove spent flowers to encourage re-blooming, full sun, keep moist during summer



## **Geum tempo yellow**

Super hardy perennial, masses of semi double rosette yellow to apricot flowers from late spring to summer, full sun to partshade, 50cm high x 60cm wide



## **Euphorbia martinnii**

Mound forming plant with greyish-green foliage that is tipped with red growth, masses of long flower bracts of lime green through spring and summer, hardy, full sun or partial shade, 40cm high x 40cm wide. Comment: recommend



## **Polygala little bidi**

Hybrid polygala with round ball shape and mauve pea like flowers almost year round, heat and frost tolerant, full sun, 100cm high x 100cm wide



## **Dianthus deltoids**

A charming evergreen hardy perennial forming a mat of green foliage with narrow dark-green leaves. Slender stems bear a succession of clustered blush-pink to deep rose flowers. It has a creeping habit and very attractive rose pink flowers. The flowers have a delightful sweet scent. Grow in a well-drained soil in a sunny site. Drought tolerant.





### **Osteospermum blushing beauty**

Osteospermum will overwinter in very warm regions. Golden yellow blooms with strong centred eye. Will grow in any climate and got strong weather tolerance. Very free flowering and easy to maintenance. Evergreen foliage and flowering during autumn.



### **Alstroemeria: Inca series - Inca Bandit, Inca Gold Rush, Inca Reef, Inca Magic.**

Dwarf form with flushes of flowers for up to 8 months, sun to part shade: Inca Bandit pure red flowers, 45cm x 40cm; Inca Gold Rush brilliant yellow; Inca Reef rich coral orange, 35cm tall x 40cm wide, Inca Magic contrasting white and mauve 30cm high x 30 cm wide. Comment: Flowering may slow or stop during heavy drought periods. Also, need sheltered sunny position. Need to keep moist during summer. Recommended for beds with frequent irrigation facility.



### **Alstromeria: Bryce, dark purple, doba, indigo**

Same characteristics as above. Recommended for beds with frequent irrigation





## **MESEMBRYANTHEMUM Crimson Glory**

Shiny, crimson flowers with thin, layered petals and a bright yellow centre and succulent-like foliage with a low, spreading habit. Flowering throughout spring and summer. Evergreen and tolerates drought conditions. Easy care. Plant in well-drained soil in a hot, sunny position. Height to 20-40cm and width to 60cm.



## **MESEMBRYANTHEMUM Mellow Yellow/ orange/ purple splendour/ scarlet**

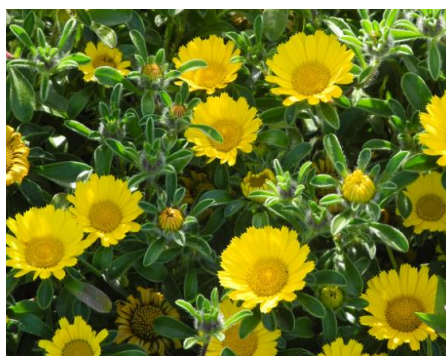
Stunning yellow flowers with thin, layered petals and succulent foliage with a low, spreading habit. Evergreen. Hardy. Tolerates dry conditions. Height to 20-40cm and width to 60cm. Prune after flowering.





### **ODONTOSPERMUM Gold Coin**

Rich golden yellow daisy flowers with grey-green foliage and a spreading habit. Flowering from spring through to summer. Evergreen. Hardy. Long flowering period. Frost, coastal, wind and heat tolerant. Plant in well -drained soil in a hot and sunny position. Height to 50cm and width to 50cm. Remove spent flowers to encourage further flowering and to tidy.



### **Dianthus 'rosebud'/Romance**

Members of the Dianthus FRUIT PUNCH® series share the following traits: Evergreen, semi to fully double, fragrant flowers, and good heat and humidity tolerance. Flowers appear in early summer, and a quick shearing after flowering will encourage them to re-bloom in early fall. It will thrive in less water with average soil conditions.



### **Dianthus slap n tickle/'candy floss mauve'/ sugar plum raspberry**

Same characteristics as dianthus rosebud'



### **Dianthus 'Passion'**



Same as Dianthus other varieties



## Summer: Annuals

### Vinca

Annual vinca is best grown in a sandy loam soil in a full sun location. Although tolerant of drought, it will perform best with moderate weekly watering rather than sprayed from overhead. Vincas are free-flowering and self-cleaning, and no dead heading is necessary. This plant thrives in hot and humid weather. Blooming period starting from early summer till frost. Height typically ranging from 30-50cm. Verities are: Vinca jaio dark red, jam n' jellies blackberry.



### Arctotis Burgundy belle

Rich burgundy daisy-like flowers from spring through to autumn and grey/green foliage with a low growing, compact habit. Evergreen. Long flowering period. Tolerates dry and coastal positions. Quick to grow. Height to 30cm. Prune after flowering to encourage new growth. Verities are: Arctotis brick red, Silver pink, Arctotis orange etc.



## **Angelface Cascade Pink/White/ Blue**

Standing 8-14 inches tall and spreading up to 18 inches wide with upright habit of growth. Long bloomer is drought tolerant however needs frequent watering till its establishment and low maintenance. Planted in full sun locations, can be used in borders, or as a thriller in container designs. Low maintenance, with no deadheading required to keep the plant blooming. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Asses of beautiful spikes of rose pea-like flowers with deep purple eyes rising above the foliage from late spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its small fragrant narrow leaves remain green in colour throughout the year. Blooming period: late spring till frost.



## **Aster royal ruby**

Perennial form of the ever popular annual aster, they grows upright bushy habit. Rich ruby red flowers are produced freely from summer through to late autumn. Flowers are great for cutting. Great for borders and containers. Best in a sunny situation. Cut after flowering to almost ground level to get strong new foliage from the base of the plant. Hardy. Winter dormant. Height 50cm. Drought, salt and wet sol tolerant.





### **Federation daisy Cherry Harmony**

Flowering over many months and drought tolerant, the only care needed apart from the occasional watering in the dry months is a light trim and a feed at the end of the flowering period. This keeps your daisies in good heart for subsequent flowering performance. Great show through the spring and summer of fully double flowers of bright deep pink making a brilliant show of colour. Height up to 50cm and width 50cm.



### **Rudbeckia cherry baby**

A dramatic Rudbeckia in shades of cherry Red. Robust plants are outstanding in the summer garden, tolerating heat, drought and poor soils. Long flowering period and great weather resistance. Height up to 50cm. flowering on June, July, Aug. till sept.



## **Geranium calliope red splash & Geranium calliope burgundy**

Heat and drought tolerant the Calliope series geraniums can survive and thrive during the hot dry summers. Flower right through spring, summer and autumn. Growing in sun to partial shade. Colour category: Red. They can survive light frost. Other varieties are geranium maverick red, geranium maverick white,



Geranium calliope burgundy

## **Portulaca**

It is a sun loving plant, easy care and drought tolerant ground cover plants. Excessive rain/dampness can cause Portulaca to develop root rot problems. Varieties are Portulaca red and white, Portulaca scarlet



## Cosmos

Cosmos are annual flowers with colourful, daisy-like flowers that sit atop long, slender stems. Blooming throughout the summer months and they will survive in poor soil as well. Cosmos can tolerate warm, dry weather very well. They are even drought-tolerant. Water regularly until plants are established or if it is unusually dry. Make sure you don't over-water cosmos. Recommended varieties are: Cosmos Lemonade, Cosmos Pink Glow, cosmos Sonata White.



Cosmos white



Cosmos pink glow

## Zinnias

Zinnia can be an upright or spreading annual. Need warm temperate climates with hot summers. Large, abundant, colourful single, semi-double or double daisy-like flowers from summer until autumn or the first frosts. Water at least once or twice a week during warm summer weather. Can withstand dry periods once established.

Even though they are adaptable and can tolerate wild range of soils, they do not perform well with water-logged soils. Height 15cm to 1m. Flowering from summer till autumn or first frost.

Verities: Zinnia Soleado, Zinnia augustifolia, Zinnia elegans, Zinnia zahara yellow





## WINTER ANNUALS

### **Polyanthus/Primula**



These are happy in full sun or a shady spot. If you have a shady position, make sure it isn't too dark, as they do need daylight to stimulate flower bud initiation and leaf growth. Aim to keep the soil moist, but not wet; free-draining soil is ideal. Avoid planting in soils that will get waterlogged for long periods; they loathe constant wetness, it causes big problems and the centres of the plants will rot away fairly quickly.

### **Pansy**



Prefer temperate climates with a mild growing environment. Pansies are low-growing, compact perennial flowering plants that are usually grown as annuals. Pansies grow and flower from late winter through to the end of spring and early summer in cooler climates. Height up to 10 to 25 cm.

Root rot diseases typically occur in wet substrates due to over-watering, poor drainage, or containers standing in water. Foliar diseases are favoured by extended periods of leaf wetness. Watering late in the day so that plants go through the evening with wet leaves can increase disease. This is because most leaf-spotting fungi require a minimum of eight to 12 hours of constant leaf wetness to infect the plant. Also, in damp conditions the snails and slugs are more active will create leaves and petal damages.

Recommended varieties are viola wittrockiana raspberry, wittrockiana scarlet and orange, and wittrockiana true blue

## Lobelia



Annual low-growing mounding or trailing type, with masses of small blue, purple or white flowers with a height of 10–20cm tall. It prefers well-drained soil also retains moisture. Lobelia is usually pest and disease free.

Lobelia will wilt with too much water. If they are growing in heavy or waterlogged soils, particularly in winter, which can be fatal. Occasionally be troubled by botrytis and root rot when grown in wet or waterlogged conditions.

Verities recommended: Lobelia cascade deep blue, lobelia cerise pink, lobelia white



## Poppy flowers



Poppy plants may rot and die in soaked soils, so only water when the soil feels dry to a finger's depth. **Typically, you only need to water the plants once every several days.** Increase the amount of water per watering session in hot weather or if the poppies turn brown. Recommended varieties are: Iceland poppy, Poppy Champagne Red, Poppy Champagne white, and Poppy Champagne Yellow.

## CINERARIA Maritima Silver Dust



It thrives well in hot and sunny locations. Silver dust is tolerant of cold weather within its hardiness range, but you can reduce watering by forecasting the weather. It doesn't like soggy soil.

## Snapdragon

Bright snapdragon flowers bloom profusely throughout cool weather in intensely saturated colours and are real standouts in either the spring or fall garden. The flowers start blooming at the bottom of the stalk and work their way up, making for a long period of bloom. Although snapdragons tend to slow down and stop blooming in heat of mid-summer, if you keep them watered, they will perk up and carry your garden through the fall. Flowering time ranging from spring to fall. Plant height is about 18-24 inches. Blooms in early spring, autumn and winter.

Recommended varieties: Speedy sonnet bronze snapdragon, Sonnet crimson snapdragon, speedy sonnet white snapdragon, sonnet yellow snapdragon, Sonnet rose snapdragon



N.B: Would like to add our previous annual species (as they have relatively high performance in terms of long blooming period and climatic adaptability) along with this list with effective weather forecasted irrigation management system.