

NATIVE PLANT AND BUG HUNT



Did you know that our unique native plants all have insects that rely on them for their food and their habitat? Some insects only survive on one plant species. Some plants also rely on insects for pollination.

See if you can find all of these plants. Can you spot any bugs, or signs of bugs, on them? Can you see eggs, nibbled holes, spider webs, or chrysalises?

Harakeke has flowers for our pollinating insects and leaves eaten by two native moths. Can you see holes from the 'windower' caterpillar?



Köhühū and karo flowers release their scent at night to attract moths and other night flying insects for pollination



Kawakawa has a looper caterpillar that uses it for a host plant. Can you spot holes nibbled in the leaves?



Putaputawētā is a host plant to puriri moth caterpillars. When they leave their burrows, spiders and wētā move into the large holes.



Mānuka flowers provide nectar for our small native bees and flies. The leaves are eaten by 6 species of native stick insect!



Koromiko is a plant that is always covered in bees and butterflies when flowering. It is host to a lot of species of insects, mites, and caterpillars.



The cabbage tree moth camouflages with the dead leaves of the tī kōuka, with stripes that match perfectly. Its caterpillars eat the leaves.



Korokio is the host plant for 3 species of caterpillars. The flowers provide nectar for our small native bees and pollinating beetles.



Pohuehue is a host plant and food for our native copper butterflies. Spittle bugs and spiders like its wiry branches to hide in.



Kōwhai flowers attract moths in the spring moonlight. The day flying kōwhai moth's caterpillars eat the leaves of the plant.



Kōtukutuku has blue pollen and nectar for our pollinating birds and insects. Its flowers change from green to pink after being pollinated!



Horopito plants are home to the caterpillars of 8 species of moth, two species of horopito weevil grubs, and the horopito whitefly!

