

Native plant production for restoration projects

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For over 27 years Berhampore Nursery has been producing native plants for the Wellington City Council. In the early 1990's only small numbers of plants were supplied to restoration projects. Plant production and species diversity has steadily increased. Since 1998 just over 1 million native plants have been produced for restoration projects. In the last 2 years the range of species has increased significantly as propagation and restoration efforts increased. 126 species are now able to be produced and planted. All seed used for propagation is eco-sourced from within the Wellington City boundaries. Collecting this seed, following current best practice guidelines and ensuring accurate records are kept, is a key function of Berhampore Nursery. The nursery is now moving towards greater efficiency in seed use by using more advanced seed technology. With a greater emphasis on experimental propagation, it is predicted that more species can be produced for use in the council's native vegetation restoration projects. We will also attempt to enhance the field survival and growth of the plants produced at Berhampore Nursery. Examples of the nurseries work and challenges are presented. Berhampore Nursery is actively seeking propagation and restoration advice as well as looking for research partners.