

Titoki, Kowhai, and such like. Inside this initial shelter comes the main forest, Rimu, Kahikatea, and a host of other forest trees. It is necessary, therefore, to start with the outskirts before venturing on Rimu and such other inhabitants of the forest proper. The necessary shade will later be present to harbour these.

Many of these outskirts will grow and look well as individual trees around one's garden, but the growth of natives will be very much faster if grown on the grove principle, indeed many species will astonish those who are under the impression that our native trees are all slow growing. If planted amongst grass and in hard packed soil they will certainly be slow and struggle for years, but given free soil and above all good drainage quite different results are quickly in evidence. Thus the Ngaio has been known to grow 10 feet in twelve months and the Whau faster still.

To prepare the ground for the grove it is best to cultivate the whole area and then let it lie fallow for a week or two. All that is then required is to give it a rough rake over after rain, immediately weeds show above ground. Each tree should be planted with care, puddling it in and then compressing the ground with the feet. Remember that people with big feet make good planters. See that the newly planted shrubs are kept moist for a week at least after planting and you will not have many losses provided that the roots prior to planting have not been allowed to become dry by exposure to sun or dry air. The best time to plant is in the late autumn or early spring. It is money well spent if those plants at least which are intended for permanency are procured from a reliable nurseryman as they will then have been properly treated prior to despatch.

Our native trees are all rare trees as few of them are found wild in any other country, and owing to depredations of plant-eating animals, fire, and other causes they are yearly becoming less. Besides giving the grower much pleasure a stand of pure native trees will in the future be of unique value.

The following is a list of berry bearing and nectar supplying plants. Foremost amongst these is the Poroporo or Bullbull as it bears the first year and grows with great rapidity in a moist situation. It only lives for three years but will seed itself. It was off this plant that the Maoris snared tuis in large numbers in former days. Birds are wonderfully responsive to sympathy, but good results cannot be expected unless war is declared in no uncertain manner on such predatory animals as the house cat. The presence of cats and pea-rifles around our homes means the presence of insect pests, since the birds that would keep them in check are either killed or driven away.