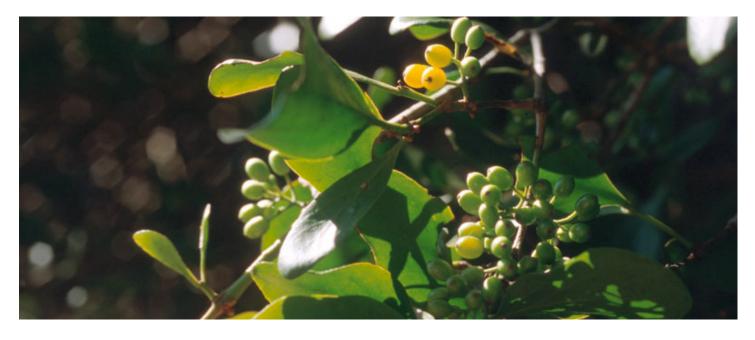
Christchurch Botanic Gardens Te Māra Huaota o Waipapa

# **Backyard Mistletoe Project** A guide to sowing mistletoe



### Seeds to success

- Each bag contains 20 fruit. Native green mistletoe/pirita have an average germination success rate of only about 5%. Hopefully one will grow!
- These seeds must be sown by Sunday. Keep them refrigerated until you are ready to sow.
- You can sow all of your seeds on one host tree, or up to four different host trees.
- You can sow seeds on a large range of host trees (see over the page for a list of common host species).
- Pick host trees that receive good sunlight.
- Choose branches 3–5mm thick (max.10mm).
- It's best to attach the seed at the join of two branches.
- Avoid sowing on a rainy or windy day.

## Seed sowing instructions

- 1. Gently squeeze the seed out of the fruit.
- 2. There will be a cloudy, sticky layer around the seed (viscin). This layer makes the seed stick to the branch.
- 3. Gently smear the seed onto a branch of the host.
- 4. Sow five seeds along one branch.
- 5. Tag your seeds by winding a piece of bright-coloured twine (provided) around the branch. This makes it easy to locate seeds in the future.
- 6. Fill in the Record Sheet (see over page). It details the location, species of the host tree and number of seed sown on each tree.
- 7. Shortly, you'll receive a brief survey on email about your experience of seed sowing.
- 8. In 6–8 weeks, we will email more information, and another short survey on germination success.

Thanks for getting involved in the Backyard Mistletoe Project.



#### For more information:

Email: backyardmistletoe@ccc.govt.nz Website: ccc.govt.nz/backyardmistletoe

## **Record sheet**

Location	Host species	Number of seed sown

# **Common host species**

Ileostylus micranthus is found on over 200 host species. Common host species are:

Native	Exotic	
Coprosma	Tree lucerne	
Kowhai	Acacia	
Manuka	Lemon	
Olearia	Robinia	
Pittosporum	Tree lucerne	
Pseudopanax (e.g. five-finger)	Ash	
Totara	Lemon	
Wineberry	Maple	
Coprosma	Oak	
Hoheria	Plum (& other Prunus)	
Olearia	Robinia	
Pittosporum	Silver birch	
Pseudopanax (e.g. five-finger)	Willow	
Wineberry	most deciduous trees & shrubs	
	Flowering cherry	

