

Metrosideros collina

(New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa tree)

Pohutukawaw is native to New Zealand, it blooms there in December, which is summertime in the southern hemisphere. This broadleaf evergreen tree develops an upright, rounded canopy. Young plants resemble shrubs but develop into trees with age. They are covered with glossy green, oval leaves with recurved edges. As plants age, the leathery leaves become less shiny and turn dark green with gray, felty undersides.. Anytime from spring to early summer a cluster of crimson flowers appear that lack petals but are teeming with long, whisker-like stamens. Emerging buds are white and felty. Nectar-loving insects and birds relish the blossoms and leathery seed capsules develop after pollinated. Grow the plant in a sunny spot with loam that is slightly acidic. This plant tolerates heat, drought and salt spray, and can tolerate minor frost. Lower branches can be pruned away to encourage a tree-like habit. It makes a fine tree for mild coastal landscapes. Plant as a specimen tree in a, seaside garden, or large planter. It has many surface roots that can damage pavement, so it does not make a good street tree for space-limited tree lawns.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Arbre de Noël de Nouvelle Zélande; pohutukawa

Pronunciation: met-roh-SID-er-oss

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: New Zealand

Heat Zones: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Screen, Hedge, Specimen, Container, Windbreak, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Round

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Fine

Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m

Spread at Maturity: 8 to 10 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 5 to 10 Years

Metrosideros collina

(New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa tree)



Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Leathery

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 3 - 7

Flower Type: Cyme

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Red, Purple, Pink

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Winter

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Single Trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Capsule

Fruit Showiness: False

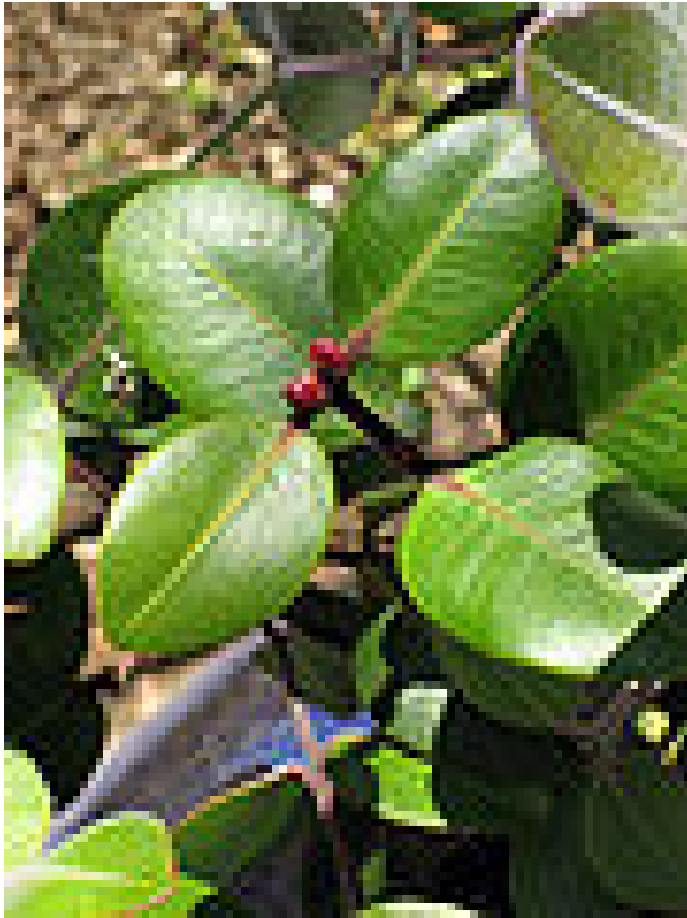
Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Black

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Winter

Metrosideros collina

(New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa tree)



Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: Yes

Life Span: 25-50 years

Diseases: Root rot, Fungus

Edible Parts: None

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Bark Image



Other Image