



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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7 February 2017

Email: [fyi-request-5185-7868ffe5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5185-7868ffe5@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Estella Wong

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request dated 7 January 2017 for the following: *What are the most common 10 plants in New Zealand (native and non-native included)?*

Please find enclosed the information which you requested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Cornwell'.

Jeffrey Cornwell  
Director, Planning and Support, Science & Policy Group  
Department of Conservation - Te Papa Atawhai



## OBJECTIVE

Identify the 10 most common plant species in New Zealand, including native and non-native species.

## METHODS

Recce data from 20×20m plots from DOC's Tier 1 monitoring plots spanning from 2009-2015. The compiled dataset is a robust representative and unbiased sample of vegetation across public conservation land in New Zealand.

Plant species frequency was computed as the number of plots where a plant species was present relative to the total number of plots measured and was expressed as a percentage.

## RESULTS

The compiled dataset comprises 2196 'species' across 1368 plots.

The ten most frequent vascular species occur across 37.1 to 57.5% of measured plots and encompass five fern and five tree species that are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Ten most common plant species.

Species name	Species code	Origin	Growth form	N. plots present	Frequency (%)
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	ASPFLA	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Fern	787	57.53
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	GRILIT	Indigenous Endemic	Tree	707	51.68
<i>Notogrammitis billardierei</i>	NOTBIL	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Fern	681	49.78
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	PSECRA	Indigenous Endemic	Tree	617	45.10
<i>Hymenophyllum multifidum</i>	HYMMUL	Indigenous Non-Endemic	Fern	583	42.62
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	BLEDIS	Indigenous Endemic	Fern	581	42.47
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	WEIRAC	Indigenous Endemic	Tree	566	41.37
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	CARSER	Indigenous Endemic	Tree	519	37.94
<i>Coprosma foetidissima</i>	COPFOE	Indigenous Endemic	Tree	515	37.65
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	DICSQU	Indigenous Endemic	Tree fern	508	37.13