

PLANTS NATURALLY ARISING IN MY GARDEN, BELLEVUE, TAURANGA

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Matt Buys had suggested to me that I should, as a project to keep me usefully occupied, provide vouchers for all the species in the Tauranga Ecological District. As a starting point I decided to find out what was actually in my own back yard. Most plant lists provide a window on the flora of back-country areas rather than that of urban areas. A few people have provided lists for their properties (Carol West- Invercargill, Colin Ogle-Pukerua Bay), and I have often made lists for campgrounds and places where I have stayed. These lists are unpublished but on a database, and quite brief, so I started with the expectation of a small list of perhaps 60 species, which would be soon completed. Two years on at over 160 species, I am still recording new visitors and assessing the status of many common garden plants.

The section is about 1100 sq m or more or less the standard quarter acre. It is a back section with a long mostly shared driveway and a rectangular main section. It lies near the top of a hill, facing north and west with eight neighbours but pretty exposed to northerly and westerly winds. Parts of the area have been levelled, providing a back lawn and two other terraces, but most is moderately sloping, facing west.

The soil is quite variable. The original topsoil was fine fertile ash about 20 cm deep followed beneath by a very dense infertile clay-like ash up to 30 cm thick below which is a deep layer (several metres) of coarse pumice. In the driveway and several other places the top layer has been stripped and the impervious infertile ash layer is at the surface.

The house has been on the site since 1979 but the previous owner did quite a bit of terracing and removal of the original trees, just before it was sold in 2000. I removed a few more large old trees but also, in our first few years, planted many shrubs. There is a reasonably large area of vegetable garden (15%), shrubbery with weed mat (15%), lawn

(10%), pavement (10%) and of course the house. All this provides a wide variety of habitats.

The chief lawn grass is narrow-leaved carpet grass, invaded since my arrival by *Microlaena stipoides*. I have managed to almost completely keep out kikuyu, the main local lawn grass. The shrubberies are rather open and require weeding, usually on a very irregular basis. Our frequent absences, sometimes for months at a time, mean that even the vege garden gets neglected for long periods, especially during the summer months.

I have the usual common garden weeds including five species of oxalis, veldt grass, winter *Poa annua*, summer *Portulacca oleracea* and late summer *Digitaria sanguinalis*. Lawn has plants such as browntop, *Paspalum dilatatum*, *Bellis perennis* and *Gamocheata coactata*. In the shrubberies veldt grass often reigns supreme along with *Euphorbia peplus* and three species of *Viola*, the worst offender being the dog violet. On the fences jasmine is a pest along with *Thunbergia alata* but choko, which I planted several years ago, has taken over the next door neighbour's orchard (they say, being English they don't do gardens) and each autumn returns over the fence and hedge to provide a winter bounty. Some formal areas alternate with little attention between cineraria and balsam (or water fuchsia), the former in winter the latter summer. The giant *Geranium maderense* seeds freely and usefully shades out other plants but can be a nuisance.

You expect some garden plants, such as alyssum, freesias and ixias to proliferate; others are surprises. Snapdragon has spread widely especially in gravel areas and pavement cracks. New Zealand spinach seeds prolifically into a shrubbery. Then there are some species you hesitate to call adventive such as portulaca and Livingstone daisy. They appear each spring and summer in the same large pot one after the other, although they have spread to cracks in the pavement this year. *Nicotiana* and fairy primula occur sporadically in various places, some well away from their original planting.

Some species are hard to get rid of. The tuberous *Oxalis* species and veldt grass are legend. I finally after 10 years managed to get rid of a small patch of *Selaginella kraussiana* but *Pteris tremula* and toadflax get into crevices and have defeated me so far – even sprays don't get the last bits. The orange-flowered *Campsis x tagliabuana* 'Madame Galen' keeps appearing over a wide area, apparently from deeply buried rhizomes. *Cyperus eragrostis* keeps coming back along drainways and the maidenhair ferns get into all my pots in the shade house. *Setaria*, brought in during my preparation of the Grass Field Guide, are also spreading, especially *S. pumila*. *Carex inversa* arrived uninvited and forms mats in shaded parts of the lawn and gardens. Until this year *Dichondra repens* has been difficult to spread but now occupies large areas of shrubbery – perhaps due to the damp summer.

A few species have arrived courtesy of the neighbours. Dill has jumped the fence and another neighbour's dogs make sure that Onehunga weed keeps coming back in the lawns of the driveway. Boat cleaning next door into the shared driveway has also probably brought in kikuyu, *Eleusine indica* and the Indian doab which is creeping its way through the shrubberies of the driveway. Satin bush keeps arriving from another neighbour two houses away. *Metrosideros perforata* now makes a fine hedge after arriving on tree ferns used as fencing but is hard to keep at home, invading the shade house and spreading all along the boundary fence.

There are a few surprises among woody plants too. *Hebe glaucophylla*, brought from Nelson, seeds freely and red matipo appears all over the place. *Blechnum parrisiae* and *Adiantum hispidulum* have arrived under the deck and peer out through the gaps. The scented white-flowered *Mandevilla laxa* has rapidly spread by seed from a plant brought in from Christchurch three years ago. In the last two or three years Queensland poplar has begun appearing with no apparent local source. Finally a few species seem to keep arising from a previous seed source. These include castor oil plant and moth plant.

PLANTS OF THE GARDEN

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

- Cordyline australis* cabbage tree; ti-kouka
Cordyline australis x *C. banksii*
* *Phoenix canariensis* phoenix palm

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

- * *Camellia japonica* camellia
Coprosma repens taupata
* *Gomphocarpus fruticosus* (*Asclepias*) swan plant
Hebe glaucophylla ss
* *Homalanthus populifolius* Queensland poplar
* *Ligustrum sinense* Chinese privet
Myrsine australis red matipo; mapou
* *Persea americana* avocado
* *Podalyria sericea* satin bush
* *Prunus campanulata* Taiwan cherry
Pseudopanax lessonii houpara
* *Rhaphiolepis umbellata* sexton's bride
* *Ricinus communis* castor oil plant

Monocotyledonous lianes

- * *Asparagus scandens* climbing asparagus; snake feather

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

- * *Araujia hortorum* (*A. sericifera*) moth plant; cruel vine
Campsis x *tagliabuana* campsis
* *Hedera helix* ssp. *helix* ivy
* *Jasminum polyanthum* jasmine
* *Mandevilla laxa*
Metrosideros perforata aka; small white rata; torotoro
* *Passiflora edulis* f. *edulis* passionfruit
* *Rumex sagittatus* climbing dock
* *Sechium edule* choko
* *Thunbergia alata* black-eyed Susan

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

- * *Selaginella kraussiana* selaginella

Ferns

- Adiantum hispidulum* rosy maidenhair fern
* *Adiantum raddianum*

<i>Asplenium polyodon</i> (<i>A. falcatum</i>)	sickle spleenwort; petako
<i>Blechnum parrisiae</i> (<i>Doodia australis</i>)	pukupuku; rasp fern
* <i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	holly fern
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki; harsh tree fern
* <i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	tuber sword-fern
* <i>Pteris cretica</i>	
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	turawera

Grasses

* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop
* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal
* <i>Axonopus fissifolius</i> (<i>A. affinis</i>)	narrow-leaved carpet grass
* <i>Bromus willdenowii</i>	
* <i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i> (<i>Pennisetum</i>)	kikuyu
* <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Indian doab
* <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
* <i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> (<i>Panicum</i>)	hairy finger grass
* <i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	barnyard grass
* <i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	veldt grass
* <i>Eleusine indica</i>	crowfoot grass
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	forest rice grass
* <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	paspalum
* <i>Poa annua</i>	annual poa
* <i>Setaria gracilis</i> (<i>S. geniculata</i>)	knot root bristle grass
* <i>Setaria palmifolia</i>	palm grass
* <i>Setaria pumila</i> (<i>S. glauca</i>)	yellow bristle grass
* <i>Setaria viridis</i>	green bristle grass
* <i>Sporobolus africanus</i>	needle grass; rat's tail
* <i>Vulpia myuros</i> var. <i>myuros</i>	rats-tail fescue

Sedges

<i>Carex comans</i>	
<i>Carex inversa</i>	
* <i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	

Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

* <i>Agapanthus praecox</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	agapanthus
* <i>Allium cepa</i>	
* <i>Allium triquetrum</i>	three-cornered garlic
* <i>Asparagus sprengeri</i>	
* <i>Crocasmia</i> x <i>crocasmiflora</i>	montbretia
* <i>Freesia refracta</i>	freesia

* <i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>	wild ginger
# <i>Ixia maculata</i>	ixia
# <i>Narcissus papyraceus</i>	paper-white
# <i>Sparaxis tricolor</i>	sparaxis
* <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	wandering Jew
* <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	arum lily

Daisy-like herbs

* <i>Bellis perennis</i>	lawn daisy
* <i>Calendula officinalis</i>	marigold
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (<i>C. lanceolatum</i>)	Scotch thistle
* <i>Conyza sumatrensis</i> (<i>C. albida</i>)	fleabane
* <i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
# <i>Dahlia</i> x <i>coccinea</i>	dahlia
* <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> (<i>E. mucronatus</i>)	Mexican daisy
* <i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>	galinsoga
* <i>Gamochaeta coarctata</i> (<i>G. spicata</i>)	
* <i>Gamochaeta simplicicaulis</i>	
* <i>Glebionis segetum</i>	corn marigold
* <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> (<i>Hypochoeris</i>)	catsear
* <i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly lettuce
* <i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipplewort
* <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> (<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>)	oxeye daisy
* <i>Pericallis</i> x <i>hybrida</i>	cineraria
* <i>Soliva sessilis</i>	Onehunga weed
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	sow thistle; puha; puka
* <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion

Dicotyledonous herbs other than daisies

* <i>Amaranthus powellii</i>	redroot
* <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> var. <i>arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel
* <i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	snapdragon
* <i>Antirrhinum orontium</i>	antirrhinum
* <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> var. <i>hirsuta</i>	bitter cress; spitting Jenny
* <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i>	mouse-eared chickweed
* <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Mercury Bay weed
# <i>Dorotheanthus bellidiformis</i>	livingstone daisy
<i>Dysphania pumilio</i> (<i>Chenopodium</i>)	clammy goosefoot
* <i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	tall willow-herb
# <i>Eruca vesicaria</i> (<i>E. sativa</i>)	rocket
# <i>Erysimum cheiranthoides</i>	treacle mustard
* <i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	milkweed

* <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel
* <i>Fumaria muralis</i> subsp. <i>muralis</i>	scrambling fumitory
* <i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	fumitory
* <i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
* <i>Galium murale</i>	
* <i>Geranium incanum</i>	
* <i>Geranium maderense</i>	
* <i>Geranium molle</i>	dove's foot crane's bill
<i>Geranium solanderi</i> agg.	
<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i> var. <i>moschata</i>	
# <i>Hydrocotyle robusta</i>	
* <i>Impatiens sodenii</i>	shrub balsam
# <i>Impatiens walleriana</i>	balsam, water fuchsia, busy Lizzie
* <i>Lamium purpureum</i>	red dead-nettle
# <i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>	sweet pea
* <i>Lepidium didymum</i> (Coronopus)	twin cress
* <i>Lobularia maritima</i>	alyssum
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus major
* <i>Lunaria annua</i> subsp. <i>annua</i>	honesty
* <i>Medicago arabica</i>	spotted bur medick
* <i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick
* <i>Mentha spicata</i> subsp. <i>spicata</i>	spearmint
* <i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	creeping mallow
# <i>Nicotiana x sanderæ</i>	flowering tobacco
* <i>Oxalis articulata</i>	pink shamrock; sour grass
* <i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	horned oxalis
* <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> var. <i>atropurpurea</i>	
<i>Oxalis exilis</i> ss	yellow oxalis; creeping oxalis
* <i>Oxalis incarnata</i>	pale oxalis; lilac oxalis
* <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup
* <i>Persicaria capitata</i>	
* <i>Physalis peruviana</i>	cape gooseberry
* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort; narrow-leaved plantain
# <i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	
* <i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	purslane
# <i>Primula malacoides</i>	fairy primula
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal
* <i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>	small-flowered buttercup
* <i>Sagina procumbens</i>	procumbent pearlwort
* <i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	water figwort
* <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade
* <i>Stellaria media</i> subsp. <i>media</i>	chickweed
<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>	kokihi; native spinach
* <i>Trifolium dubium</i>	suckling clover

- * *Trifolium repens* white clover
- * *Trifolium subterraneum* subclover
- * *Veronica arvensis* field speedwell
- * *Veronica persica* scrambling speedwell
- * *Veronica serpyllifolia* turf speedwell
- # *Viola hederacea*
- * *Viola riviniana* dog violet
- * *Viola x wittrockiana* pansy

- * adventive
- # dubious adventive