

CANTERBURY BOTANICAL SOCIETY: ETHICAL CODE

The code of conduct, outlined below, was adopted at the February 1995 monthly meeting of the Society.

Field botanists often visit sites of botanical interest to examine or to collect native plant material for immediate study, herbarium specimens, or propagation. In keeping with our responsibility to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct when pursuing our botanical interests, the Society urges its members to follow this set of guidelines.

PERMISSION AND RELATED MATTERS

1. Before visiting any restricted or private land always obtain permission from landowners or controlling authorities (including tangata whenua, where appropriate).
2. Respect the rights and wishes of the landowners and adhere strictly to any conditions which they may apply. Use common sense when parking vehicles, leaving gates as you found them etc.
3. If some form of collecting is envisaged in reserved or restricted areas, or any Department of Conservation land, obtain specific permission. This is particularly important in National Parks and Reserves of all kinds. Permits need to be obtained well ahead of the time of the visit. Fulfil the conditions (which may include deposition of specimens in an official herbarium collection).

COLLECTION

4. Specimens for immediate study: do not remove specimens unless it is absolutely necessary; take the smallest possible portion.
5. Specimens for herbarium: be sure that the specimen will be useful for the needs of the particular herbarium (common plants are often under-represented in official herbaria); take representative parts, including flowers, fruit, where possible; treat the specimen with care before, during and after pressing; keep full notes on location, altitude, habitat conditions, date, plant characteristics such as height, flower and fruit colour etc; normally specimens should be placed in an official herbarium; if you are collecting for a personal herbarium, consider also placing duplicate specimens in an official herbarium.
6. Specimens for propagation: preferably take seeds only; take cuttings sparingly and treat them with all possible care before, during and after placing them in the growing conditions; do not uproot whole plants except in places where their survival is

threatened by natural or human processes (e.g. on landslides, stream banks, areas of road works, logging).

RARE OR LOCALLY RESTRICTED SPECIES

7. If a plant species is rare (threatened) or locally distributed, normally it should not be collected; take photographs for a record; if a voucher specimen is absolutely necessary take the minimum necessary for identification; deposit the specimen in an official herbarium; inform appropriate scientific/conservation authorities of previously unrecorded localities for rare plants; fill in a site locality report for the database.
8. Do not disclose locations of rare plant indiscriminately.

PLANTING PROPAGATED NATIVE PLANTS OUT IN WILD COMMUNITIES

9. Consider whether such planting is really necessary; make sure that permission is obtained from the controlling authority; make sure that the genetic stock is local; make sure that you are not transferring diseases, pests or weeds (in the attached soil or growing medium, or on the plants).

CARE OF PLANT HABITATS

10. Take great care of the habitat in which wild plants grow. Do not trample or otherwise damage the ground or plants. Avoid traversing particularly sensitive sites such as cushion bogs, high alpine or native dune communities. Never take large groups to such areas.

GENERAL CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

11. When camping or otherwise visiting areas of wild vegetation ensure that there is only minimal alteration of the environment. Dogs and other pets should not be taken; do not litter or pollute water; remove your own rubbish; dispose of human waste and sullage by careful burial well away from streams. Take extreme care with fire; light fires only in approved sites or in carefully prepared sites; burn only dead wood; avoid the risk of fire spreading.