

Frequently asked questions

What land is eligible for a grant?

We encourage those who own the land or have the right to plant on the land and who can commit to establishing and maintaining trees and / or native regeneration for at least a 10-year period to apply. There are minimum land area requirements also – please see next question.

Are you targeting any specific species?

The Fund will provide simple and accessible direct grants towards the cost of planting and establishing trees and native regeneration. We do have a target of two-thirds of trees funded through the grants programme being natives.

Is erosion prone land eligible?

Yes. There is grant funding for planting on land with a high or very high erosion risk.

You can view the Erosion Susceptibility Classification of your land at <https://www.teururakau.govt.nz/growing-and-harvesting/forestry/national-environmental-standards-for-plantation-forestry/erosion-susceptibility-classification/>

Land with high or very high erosion risk will be considered for a top-up to the basic grant rate. This reflects the increased benefits and costs of appropriate forest cover on this land.

Why are you letting landowners register in the ETS?

For all species other than radiata pine, you can receive a grant and also enter in the ETS immediately (if the trees and type of planting that you are doing meets the ETS eligibility criteria). This recognises that the government wants to improve the incentives for tree planting, and recognise the broad range of environmental benefits from those trees.

Why is radiata pine not allowed to register in the ETS but all other trees are?

There are many existing incentives for landowners to plant commercial trees, particularly radiata pine. The restriction on ETS participation of pine reduces the likelihood that grant funding will be spent on commercial planting that would happen anyhow, driven by incentives for timber and carbon.

By contrast, indigenous tree planting for biodiversity, erosion control, water quality and other environmental benefits have more challenges for landowners to overcome. We are aiming to provide incentives and lower the challenges for land owners to plant indigenous trees.

Why is mānuka/kānuka a separate category?

The grant categories reflect the cost and benefits of different types of planting. Mānuka and kānuka typically have seedling and establishment costs that are higher than radiata pine, but lower than other indigenous species.

Can I receive funding for space planting of poplars and willows?

If your planting meets minimum stems per hectare requirements then you will be eligible for the exotic species grant.

For how long does stock need to be excluded from a reverting area?

If you enter a Grant Agreement then you are required to manage the area in line with your management plan for the duration of the agreement (10 years).

Depending on the site, some light and periodic grazing may help keep rank grass from choking regenerating plants.

Will you come out and look at my land?

Depending on the scale and complexity of your planting, we may visit your land at any point in the process to assess the suitability of the proposal or to monitor the planting.

How long are the agreements?

Grant contracts are for ten years, during that time period you will need to commit to establishing and maintaining the trees.

How many trees do I need to plant to be eligible?

This depends on the species that you are planting. Once the planting is established you are expected to meet minimum stems per hectare requirements (please talk to us about this).

Lower stocking rates for particular species may be agreed with Te Uru Rākau on a case-by-case basis.

What if my trees don't survive?

Mortality of planted trees is likely to occur during and after forest establishment. This should be provided for in your initial stocking rate (i.e. initial stockings should be more than the minimum establishment standard), or with supplementary planting in cases of high levels of mortality. These contingencies should be contained in a 'Management Plan' as a part of your application.

How do I know how tall my native regen will grow?

This will depend on the species you plant, your management regime, and other factors such as the site and soil. For more detailed information about this, you should talk to us at 1bt@mpi.govt.nz or your local council.

What is the maximum amount of money I can receive?

Applicants are able to apply for one or all of the grant categories. You can apply for a grant to establish up to 300 hectares per year. Larger applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

What if I want to plant different types of trees across my property?

You can. The application is designed to allow you to do this. There is certain criteria we will require across all grants which you can find on the website.



I am wanting to fence off an area and allow it to regenerate back to native forest, how do I know that the trees will be able to reach five metres at maturity?

Te Uru Rākau will assess this on a case-by-case basis.

You may get an indication of the potential of species in the area to reach 5 metres based on the height of mature regeneration in your area and the likely species composition in the regenerating area.

What happens if my trees don't grow to at least five metres?

Your application will be approved at Te Uru Rākau's discretion, taking into account the likelihood of the species typically reaching 5m at maturity where they are located. Note that non-tree species such as shrubs are an accepted component of indigenous plantings and reversion.

They do not need to reach this height over the grant period, provided they are being managed in a way that will enable the planting to reach 5m at maturity. Note that intensive management of Manuka for honey or oil will typically prevent the species from reaching 5m.

Where can I find information about tree planting and maintenance?

Information about tree planting and maintenance is available at a range of sources including:

Research and guidance about planning and undertaking forest planting can be found on the Farm Forestry Association website: www.nzffa.org.nz.

Information about indigenous planting is available at the Tane's Tree Trust website: www.tanestrees.org.nz

When will I receive my grant funding?

Once we have confirmed your application, we will also discuss milestone payments with you to ensure the best approach for you.

You may be eligible to receive some funding prior to planting, with the remainder provided on the confirmation of the successful establishment and maintenance of the planting.

If upfront costs are a barrier to planting, please discuss this with us.

Why does the area have to be over 5 hectares for everything but native trees?

Indigenous are often small scale. Allowing areas less than 5 hectares for this category will make funding accessible to small indigenous planting projects and will help achieve the two-thirds indigenous species target.

Can you help me with my management plan?

We have provided a sample on our website. If you would like to sit down with someone to discuss your plans, please don't hesitate to contact us at 1bt@mpi.govt.nz

What's happened to the Afforestation Grants Scheme?

Funding within the AGS is now full committed. Any further applications for afforestation planting initiatives should apply through the One Billion Trees Fund. This offers more flexibility for landowners and other organisations, including applications being open year-round.

What's happened to the ECFP?

Remaining ECFP funding will continue to be used for ECFP Community Grant funding applications, until fully committed.

Future applicants for erosion control tree planting in the Gisborne region will be directed to the new funding options under 1BT. We are working with our ECFP partners to ensure that this will meet the needs of the landowners of ECFP target land.

Part of the new funding under 1BT includes a partnership fund which will see us working more closely with councils to support regional planting priorities and community projects. So once ECFP Community Grant applications are fully committed, any future community project applicants will be able to work with their council and Te Uru Rakau through the new partnership fund.

What is the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCE Fund)?

The HCE Fund is a partnership between MPI, regional councils, unitary authorities, and landowners that aims to:

- plan for and treat erosion-prone land
- put sustainable management practices in place.

It is administered by regional councils and unitary authorities on behalf of MPI. The HCE Fund is an important part of the wider one billion trees programme and will complement the One Billion Trees Fund. A landowner can receive grants from both funds for planting on their land, but they must be for *different* planting activities.

Does the grant fund riparian planting?

Yes. If you are applying for riparian planting, an application will need to be supported by a credible riparian management plan, or equivalent.

What is the minimum width of planting?

- A grant area must have an average minimum canopy width of 30 metres.
- An exception to this is tree planting in riparian areas (planting along waterways), which may be narrower than 30 metres. Such an application will need to be supported by a credible riparian management plan, or equivalent.

Is mānuka/kānuka covered under the indigenous mix planting as well?

Both will be an accepted component of mixed indigenous plantings, in a proportion appropriate to your planting objectives. Please discuss your proposal with us.



How will I receive my grant?

A grant is paid out in milestones, with up to 30% paid to recipients before you undertake the tree planting or reversion activity.

This will help address the upfront costs associated with tree planting and aims to encourage more landowners to integrate trees into their landscapes. Up to 50% will then be paid when trees are successfully established, with up to 20% paid when trees have been successfully maintained.

If you face significant barriers to meeting the upfront costs of planting, please discuss these with us.