Kānuka (*Kunzea ericoides*)

Plant & Food Research
Rangahau Ahumāra Kai

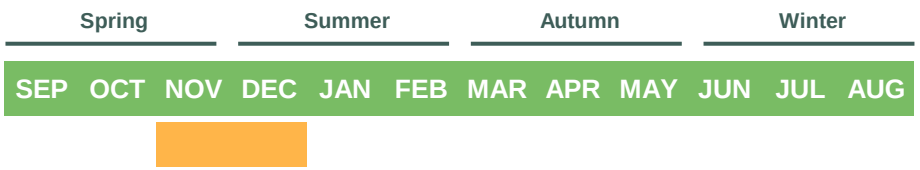
Grow this native plant to support beneficial insects

When Kānuka plants flower in late spring, they are a champion for supporting populations of beneficials including hover flies, bees, march flies and soldier flies.

A habitat that includes this plant promotes diverse on-farm populations of:

- **pest exterminators** that eat or parasitise pest insects reducing pest damage to crops and lowering pesticide use.
- **pollinating insects** that can often be better pollinators than honey bees, and be more active under cool cloudy conditions.

Kānuka flowering season



Parasitoids:
Lay eggs on insect pests that then hatch and eat the host. There are many different ichneumonid wasps that attack a wide range of pests. Some tachinid flies including the ginger blister fly attack Porina moths while another attacks grass grub.

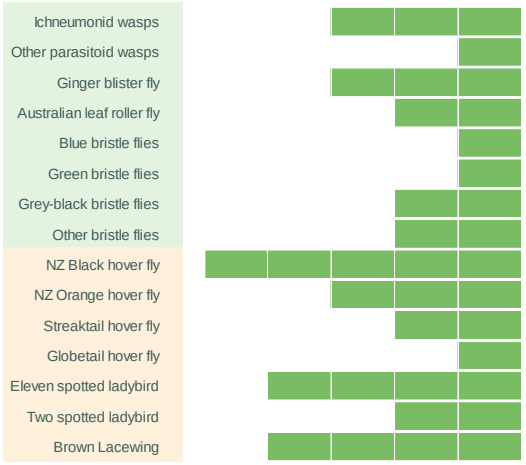
Predators:
These insects crawl around the plant eating a wide range of soft bodied insect pests including aphids, psyllids, small diamondback moth, white butterfly eggs and caterpillars.

Single tree capacity (30-min observation or foliage beating) to support various crop pollinators and pest exterminators:

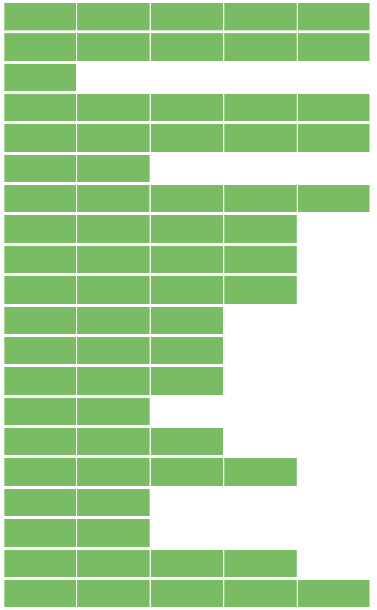
5 bars – Exceptional: Large numbers (>20) individuals across > 90% sites.
4 bars – Outstanding: Many individuals (>10) supported across > 80% of sites.
3 bars – Strong: Many individuals (>8) supported across > 40% of sites.
2 bars – Good: Several individuals (>5) supported across >20% of sites.
1 bar – Moderate: Individuals (>1) occasionally supported across >10% of sites).

Beneficial insects

Crop pest exterminators



Crop pollinators



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