Tororaro/Shrubby Tororaro (*Muehlenbeckia astonii*)

Plant & Food™ Research
Rangahau Ahumāra Kai

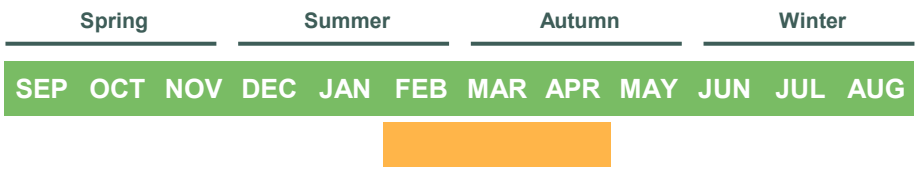
Grow this native plant to support beneficial insects

When Tororaro plants flower in early autumn, they are a champion for supporting populations of beneficials including hover flies, sweat bees, pollenia flies and brown lacewing.

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.

Tororaro 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.

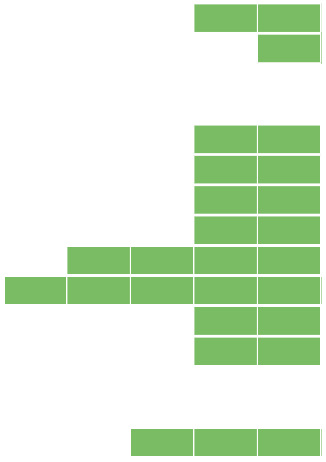
Predators:
These insects crawl around the plant eating a wide range of soft bodied insect pests including aphids, psyllids, small diamondback moth, white butterfly eggs and caterpillars.

Capacity to support different crop pollinators and pest exterminators:

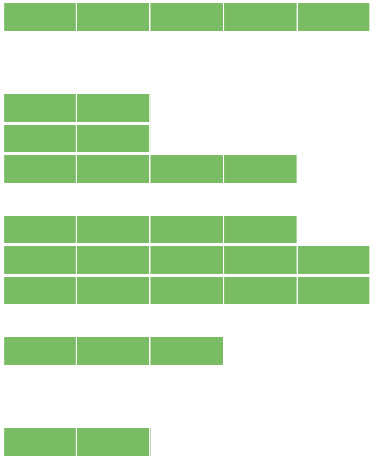
5 bars – Exceptional: Hundreds of individuals supported, regardless of site.
4 bars – Outstanding: Many individuals supported across most sites.
3 bars – Strong: Many individuals often supported across many sites.
2 bars – Good: Several individuals supported across multiple sites.
1 bar – Moderate: Individuals occasionally supported across some sites.

Beneficial insects

Crop pest exterminators



Crop pollinators



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