

Backyard Mistletoe Project

A guide to sowing mistletoe



Seeds to success

- Each bag contains 20 fruit. Native green mistletoe/pirita have an average germination success rate of only about 5%. Hopefully one will grow!
- These seeds must be sown by Sunday. Keep them refrigerated until you are ready to sow.
- You can sow all of your seeds on one host tree, or up to four different host trees.
- You can sow seeds on a large range of host trees (see over the page for a list of common host species).
- Pick host trees that receive good sunlight.
- Choose branches 3–5mm thick (max.10mm).
- It's best to attach the seed at the join of two branches.
- Avoid sowing on a rainy or windy day.

Seed sowing instructions

1. Gently squeeze the seed out of the fruit.
2. There will be a cloudy, sticky layer around the seed (viscin). This layer makes the seed stick to the branch.
3. Gently smear the seed onto a branch of the host.
4. Sow five seeds along one branch.
5. Tag your seeds by winding a piece of bright-coloured twine (provided) around the branch. This makes it easy to locate seeds in the future.
6. Fill in the Record Sheet (see over page). It details the location, species of the host tree and number of seed sown on each tree.
7. Shortly, you'll receive a brief survey on email about your experience of seed sowing.
8. In 6–8 weeks, we will email more information, and another short survey on germination success.

Thanks for getting involved in the Backyard Mistletoe Project.



For more information:

Email: backyardmistletoe@ccc.govt.nz

Website: ccc.govt.nz/backyardmistletoe

Record sheet

Location	Host species	Number of seed sown

Common host species

Ileostylus micranthus is found on over 200 host species. Common host species are:

Native	Exotic
Coprosma	Tree lucerne
Kowhai	Acacia
Manuka	Lemon
Olearia	Robinia
Pittosporum	Tree lucerne
Pseudopanax (e.g. five-finger)	Ash
Totara	Lemon
Wineberry	Maple
Coprosma	Oak
Hoheria	Plum (& other Prunus)
Olearia	Robinia
Pittosporum	Silver birch
Pseudopanax (e.g. five-finger)	Willow
Wineberry	most deciduous trees & shrubs
	Flowering cherry

