

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. We are particularly interested in sowing onto a limited range of hosts based on the results from the 2017 sowing survey. This list is over the page.
- 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.

Watch our online video for more seed-sowing tips.



For more information:

Email: backyardmistletoe@ccc.govt.nz

Website: ccc.govt.nz/backyardmistletoe

Record sheet

Location	Host species	Number of seed sown

Preferred host species

Ileostylus micranthus is found on over 200 host species.

Based on our 2017 survey results, this is our list of preferred host species for 2018.

Native	Exotic
Good	Good
Coprosma Kōwhai Pittosporum Olearia	Oak Ash Maple
OK	OK
Makomako (wineberry) Hoheria Veronica (hebes)	Lemon Apple Tree lucerne
Maybe	
Mānuka Akeake	

