



# CHALLENGE:

## CREATING A SCHOOL GARDEN:

### MAP YOUR PLACE

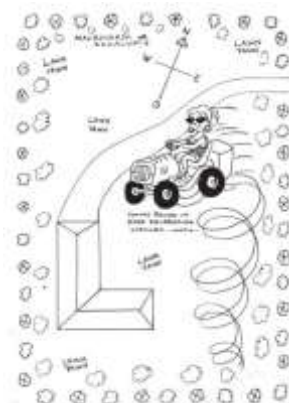
New Zealand native plants don't grow anywhere else in the world. They tell us a lot about the nature and history of our country. Your school or class could create your own native nature area – it might be an outdoor classroom, and/or growing some native forest, and/or planting a shelterbelt and attracting native birds to your place.

Another great way to get involved in a garden project is to create an edible garden. You will learn where your food comes from, and get the enjoyment and satisfaction of growing your own.



Undertake this mapping challenge using the checklist to help you, to get to know your place and identify your school garden site.

- Draw or get a map of your school
- Using the checklists go on a hunt around your school marking in potential sites that meet the factors on this checklist.
- Consider what else has to be considered for using each of the sites (e.g. permissions, other plans for this site).
- Choose the site that your group is going to use.



Draw your map here:



## Notes for Edible Gardens

To create an edible garden, knowing what conditions and factors are needed and which of those exist at a place needs to be known before planting. When you are mapping your place to choose a site is a great time to check these conditions and factors out, so that you choose the right site.

The following is a list of factors you have to consider when planning an edible garden (sourced from Edible Gardening for Otago / Southland Schools, Tania McLean, 2008). Are there any others? Add to this list as you map your place.

- North facing aspect
- All day sun
- Not a student 'playing area'
- Suitable and safe soil
- Where everyone can see it everyday
- Protected from pests (rabbits, chooks, sheep etc)
- Easily accessible by wheelbarrow and/or trailer
- Near a water source (outside tap, rain harvesting from roof)
- Distance to existing large trees (which can hinder the growth of gardens)
- .....
- .....

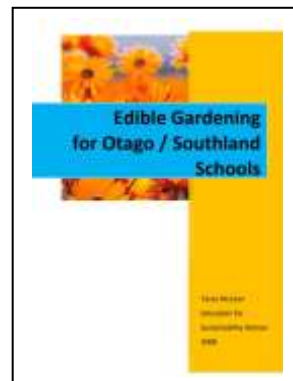
### Resources

Find out about creating an edible garden at your school.

<https://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/creating-a-school-garden/>

Check out Edible Gardening for Schools for:

- Ideas and issues for school gardens
- Links to the curriculum
- Ideas on what to plant and when
- Information about heritage species





## Notes for NZ Native Plant Gardens

Before embarking on a native planting project it's important to be clear about what you want to achieve. This will affect the size and scope of your project. We've outlined some key questions to help you get started.

For example do you want to?

- Enhance what you already have by restoring an area to a more natural state (restoring native habitat)?
- Create a new area of natural vegetation, for example, by planting a paddock or creating a wetland/pond?
- Attract native birds to your school, kindergarten or backyard?
- Use native trees as a shelterbelt on your property?
- Landscape your garden with native plants?

### Resources

Check out <https://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/> for:

- What native trees you can plant to attract native birds to your place
- The Southland Community Nursery planting guide for native shelterbelts in Southland
- More about establishing a native garden at your school
- Pointers on where to start
- A plan of action diagram (also below) that shows some simple steps for a restoration project to help you with the planning process.

