

Hūnua regeneration project

Over the next 30 years we will plant millions of native trees in our dam catchments.

Regenerating the land with natives will drastically reduce tree and soil slips and protect the quality of our supply lakes.

552,400
planted
(October 2021)

It's a year-round business

❄️ Winter

Planting takes place every winter. The number of trees we plant each season depends on the size of the cutover site from the previous harvesting season. When there is no cutover site to be restore, we carry out infill planting to replace any trees that may not have survived from previous seasons. This is called 'mortality replacement'. Some planting is also carried out to increase plant diversity in previously-planted areas. Before planting begins on prepared cutover sites, we apply grass seed to provide ground cover. Grass helps minimise the establishment of noxious weeds.

🌱 Spring

In spring we carry out maintenance in areas that have been planted. We use scrubcutters and weed-eaters to cut back plants that might be competing with natives for light and nutrients, like gorse and blackberry. The mulched vegetation helps the plants by providing nutrients and keeping the soil damp.

☀️ Summer

If there is pine harvesting scheduled, it will be carried out over summer.

🌞 Autumn

In April, we start preparing for the planting season. This can include mulching and wind-rowing – piling remaining bits of timber and branches, also known as 'slash' into rows to provide protection from the wind. We also carry out another maintenance round to clear out weeds.

