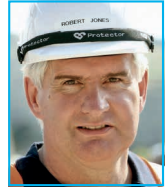


Changing the landscape – Plant by plant



Kia ora,

As other parts of the project tend to slow down over the winter months, our landscaping team will be working hard to make sure we plant as much as we can throughout the season.

Planting is carried out in winter when the ground is wet, and plants are largely dormant to let them acclimatise to their new environment before the summer.

The team had hoped to plant over 500,000 plants this season (around 50% of the total planting for the project) but the preparation of planted areas was hampered by the COVID-19 lockdown. The final planting will be carried out in the winter 2021 season.

Planting started in June and we have up to 18 planters on site; the aim is to plant around 9000 plants per day depending on terrain and access.

Some interesting facts about the projects planting are:

- Over one million native plants to be planted on the project
- Planting is primarily made up of
 - Amenity planting on the cuts and fills
 - Wetland planting - providing an environmental function in the stormwater wetlands
 - Ecological mitigation planting - driven by the consent condition requirements to offset the native vegetation removed as part of the project works.
- The planting programme is broken into two stages - as follows:
 - Stage 1- a “nursery crop” of successional species are planted to create a shaded environment (Manuka, Kanuka, Karamu, Mapou)
 - Stage 2 -the planting of specimen tree species amongst the Stage 1 successional species. The specimen tree species in Stage 2 plantings would naturally generate from the shaded areas beneath the Stage 1 planting in the natural environment (Kauri, Kahikatea, Puriri, Rewarewa, Tanekaha, Totara, Rimu, Taraire).

The landscape and planting work are just another ‘piece of the construction jigsaw’ that provides the complete picture for the completion of the motorway.

Nga mihi,
Robert



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