



# Riparian

## Native plants for waterways



Tavora Stream before planting...



... and several years later (2012)

Water quality and the environment for native fish can both be improved by fencing off waterways. If riparian strips are planted as well, not only is the property made more attractive, but aquatic life, birds and insects are given habitats, and stock are provided with shelter and shade along the outer fence. This information, based on more than twenty years of successful planting by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, sets out how to plant a riparian strip with native plants. Suitable species, with deep and widespread roots, include ribbonwood, cabbage trees and *Pittosporum*. These require little maintenance, whereas exotic species like poplar and willow need far more attention.

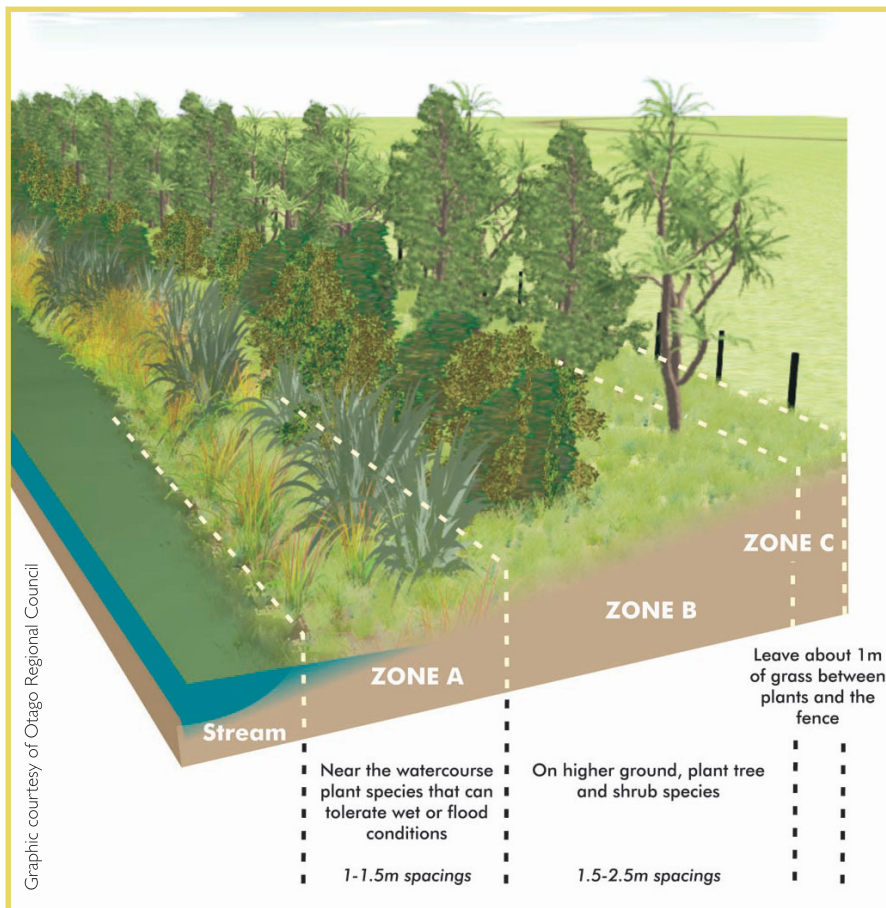


### Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Nursery

If possible, choose locally grown plants which are suited to your conditions, and which come from seed collected in your area. The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust Nursery raises about 15,000 native trees and shrubs each year in its Dunedin nursery, using seeds gathered from the Catlins to North Otago, and inland to Macraes. The nursery can provide plants and give good advice. Your first step is to contact or visit the nursery, find out what species it stocks, their cost, and how many you can order at a time. Often, plants have to be ordered in advance, sometimes up to one or two years.

How to order plants: Please contact the nursery via email - [nursery@yeptrust.org.nz](mailto:nursery@yeptrust.org.nz) – or phone the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust office on (03) 479-0011. The nursery is located in McTaggart Street, Company Bay on Otago Peninsula.





## What to plant where

Think of the planting area as three zones: fringe (zone A), mid-bank (zone B) and high bank (zone C).

Alongside the watercourse, in zone A, use plants such as grasses, sedges, flax, toetoe and red tussock which can tolerate wet or flood conditions. This is particularly important where bank erosion is a problem: the zone should be wide, and shading should be avoided.

On higher ground, in zone B, plant shrubs such as *Coprosma* and *Pittosporum* species closer to the waterway, with taller trees behind.

On a higher bank, zone C, include a grass or sedge width of at least one metre on the paddock edge if you want a water quality filter to deal with surface runoff.

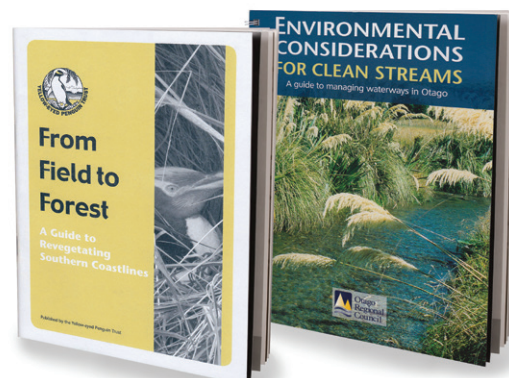
## Plant spacing

As a general guide, allow spacing of one metre for sedges and grasses, and between one and a half to two metres for bushes and trees. However, modify this for factors such as the size of the plants, how big they will grow, and expected survival rates.

## Useful resources

*From Field to Forest: a guide to revegetating southern coastlines*, 2009, a booklet produced by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, contains excellent information on planting. It also sets out the method for determining fencing requirements, managing weeds and pests, and preparing a planting plan.

The Otago Regional Council has produced a very good booklet, *Environmental Considerations for Clean Streams: a guide to managing waterways in Otago*, 2005. Other regional councils will also provide good advice on planting riparian strips.



## You can help save the world's rarest penguin...

Become a member of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust. Your membership is an expression of concern and a positive contribution to this penguin's future. Or you can join our YEPT Nursery Supporters' Club and help us to regenerate vital coastline habitats. Or you can simply give a donation – every bit helps. Visit our website [www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz](http://www.yellow-eyedpenguin.org.nz) or contact us for more information.

*Penguins. Plants. People. Passion.*

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