

New Zealand Plants Growing at Logan Botanic Garden – Part 3

The genus *Pittosporum* provides some of the most attractive of all evergreen plants that originate in New Zealand. One of the real gems of the genus is *Pittosporum eugenioides*, commonly known as the Lemonwood. Growing up to 10 m high it has attractive rich green, undulate foliage which is complimented in Spring by compound umbels of polygamous, golden flowers which smell strongly of honey. Once you smell it you will never forget it! It is easy to propagate by seed or cuttings and again richly deserves to be grown more widely.



Pittosporum tenuifolium



Sophora prostrata

The more commonly grown *Pittosporum tenuifolium* is an excellent all-round shrub with attractive foliage and makes a first-rate shelter and an excellent hedge. There are many forms in cultivation.

Currently there are 3 *Sophora* species described that are native to New Zealand namely *Sophora microphylla*, *Sophora tetraptera* and *Sophora prostrata*.

Commonly known as Kowhai, they are regarded by most New Zealanders as their national flower which is hardly surprising when

you assess its natural beauty. All except *Sophora microphylla* are endemic to New Zealand. At Logan there is probably no more fitting sight to announce the arrival of spring than the sight of our large specimen of *Sophora microphylla*.

Growing as a tree up to 10 m tall it produces butter yellow flowers, almost 5 cm long which are complemented by compound-pinnate leaves with the rachis clothed in fulvous, silky hairs. *Sophora microphylla* is distinguished from *Sophora tetraptera* by its shorter leaflets. It is very much at home on the woodland edge and is easily propagated by seed. *Sophora tetraptera* has much larger leaflets and larger flowers which are generally paler yellow.

This article highlights just a few of the real treasures of the plant kingdom that originate in New Zealand and would make ideal companion plants for any hebes.

We would love you to visit and share with you these amazing plants!
For further information please do visit our website at
www.rbge/logan.org.uk

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