



TOTARA

(*Podocarpus totara*)

Canopy
20m



Description:

- *P. totara* is found in the lowland forests throughout NZ. Mountain totara, *P. hallii*, grows at altitudes above 1400m
- A conifer, totara likes well- drained soil and it has prickly needle like leaves. The red timber is most durable
- The canopy is distinctly round

Fruit & Flowers:

- Totara have cones growing on the leaf tips. The yellow pollen cones and dark seed cones are on separate trees
- As the seed matures the lowest scales on the seed cone become red and fleshy - berry like. The birds, having eaten the berry, distribute the seed

Pests /Diseases:

- There are no significant pests or diseases of totara however they will die back if the ground is either too wet or too dry

Uses:

- To Maori totara is an extremely valuable tree. The wood is used for the construction of meeting houses, carving and canoes
- European uses include house building, furniture making, fence posts and bridges
- A slow grower. It makes a top hedge and clips nicely