



Karo

(*Pittosporum crassifolium*)

Sub-
Canopy
8m



Description:

- Pittosporum is a varied group found throughout NZ. As their name suggests the seed is encased in a sticky pulp—*Pitto* (sticky) and *sporum* (seed). Karo is a northern plant
- With its grey leaf and red flower, karo is often mistaken for pohutukawa. Remember pohutukawa does not have the large stick seed capsules and it flowers in December / January, long after the spring flowering karo
- The thick leaves, with white furry undersides, are located alternately along the stem while those of the pohutukawa are opposite

Fruit & Flowers:

- The flowers are to be found at the end of the branches and occur in spring / early summer. They are bright red
- The fruit have three sections, they open on the plant and hold the black seed in a sticky pulp
- Foraging birds such as pigeons and kakariki will sometimes have that seed stick to their feathers and distribute it further

Uses:

- Karo is very quick to regenerate. Look at the seedlings under the Norfolk Pines back on the isthmus
- It is extremely wind tolerant and a great first line of defence against salt winds