



Flax

(*Phormium tenax*)
(Harakeke)

UNDERSTORY



Description:

- A member of the lily family, it is to be found throughout NZ to a height of 1400m
- Tolerates both wet and dry sites. It will take the wind
- With parallel veins the leaf is very tough

Flowers & Seed:

- Long red tubular flowers pollinated by the nectar eaters such as bell bird and tui
- The seed capsules point upwards and upon maturity spill out vast amounts of seed for the pigeons, kakariki and other herbivores
- The seed itself is very black and paper thin

Pests/Diseases:

- Susceptible to attack by scale and caterpillars. Leaves are often marked by leaf spot

Uses:

- Weaving of course
- Flax makes excellent primary shelter in coastal windswept sites
- Hybridisation of various colours in amenity horticulture