



# **POROPORO**

*(Solanum laciniatum)*

Understory  
3m



### **Description:**

- A member of the diverse 'potato' family. The *solanaceae* that include tomatoes, chillies and the dreaded *tobacco weed*
- It is found in lowland forests that are truly frost free
- The dark green leaves are deeply lobed

### **Fruit & Flowers:**

- The flowers are bright blue and appear throughout the mid spring to late summer period
- Marble sized yellow/orange fruit, being true berries, contain many seeds. As do tomatoes
- Seeds are widely dispersed by the berry eating birds

### **Uses:**

- There are no significant pests or diseases. It is a relatively fragile plant and is not long lived.
- Poroporo was said to be used in jam making by the original settlers.
- It is believed that Maori women would boil the leaves and drink the solution for contraceptive purposes