

SPECIES Phormium tenax
COMMON NAME New Zealand Flax
ORIGIN New Zealand

DESIGN USE Seaside gardens, as borders and container plant





1m

### **HABIT**

A genus of evergreen perennials. Tufts of stiff, leathery, sword-shaped leaves arise from rhizomes.

#### **FORM**

Grows as a clump of long, strap-like leaves, from which arises a much taller flowering shoot.

#### **FLOWERS**

Red/brown

## **FLOWERING PERIOD**

Summer to late Spring

## **VARIATIONS**

"'Variegatum" (creamy yellow centres and green margins)

"Purpureum" (reddish-brown foliage)

"Bronze Baby" (dwarf hybrid, bronze with pink orange, & red stripes)

"Yellow Wave" (green and yellow stripes)

"Margaret Jones" (bright crimson colour with bronze margins)

"Pink Strip" (pink-striped foliage)

"Sundowner" (bronze green with a deep rose-red margin)

"Jack Spratt" (dwarf cultivar with twisting reddish-brown leaves)

## **CLIMATIC TOLERANCES**

The New Zealand Flax can thrive in wet or dry grounds and hot or windy situations provided the ground is drained enough. It can also withstand negative temperatures.

### **HORTICULTURE**

Grows in all soil types but prefers a well-drained ground. Should be planted in part shade or full sun. Generally need year-round water for good growth, though small periods of drought can be tolerated once it is established.

# **REFERENCES**

http://www.cradocnursery.com.au/plants/Phormium-tenax.shtml http://www.colourwise.com

www.LA3.com.au