



# KAWAKAWA

(Pepper Tree)  
(*Macropiper excelsum*)

Understory  
5m



SEED PHOTO PENDING

### **Description:**

- Here in the North it is located in coastal and lowland forests. Tough enough to tolerate the seaward side of North Head
- Kawakawa have many, often crooked stems, that are identified by swellings at the leaf nodes and heart shaped leaves with fan shaped veins
- The leaves are quite aromatic

### **Fruit & Flowers:**

- Separate male and female flowers are quite tiny
- Females form tight clusters of drupes (plum like fruit) that fuse together to form an upright spike. The spike turns from green to orange as it ripens
- Black grit like seeds are encased in the soft flesh

### **Pests / Diseases:**

- Kawakawa leaves can be severely chewed by caterpillars of the brown looper moth which are in turn food for the insectivores—fantails, saddlebacks and grey warblers

### **Uses:**

- Kawakawa has many medicinal uses including being chewed to relieve toothache. These days it is used in flavouring salad dressing
- Related to kavakava it does not contain any stimulants