



Group Leader – Planting

Specific responsibilities

The primary purpose of this role is to demonstrate, supervise and monitor the planting out work done by groups of visiting volunteers.

- Works closely with Day Coordinator and Nursery Group Leader to allocate volunteers to supervise different tasks
- Assists Nursery Group Leader with on-site nursery management and plant husbandry.

In the field

- Give a hazards briefing for planting groups, and information on toilet location, taking water, hats, sunscreen, and raincoats
- Instruct in safe use of spades and fertiliser tablets
- Ensure First Aid kit is available, and mobile phone with emergency numbers is working
- Ensure all equipment, including spades, is counted in and out, and plastic bags and root trainers are returned to woolshed
- Check that volunteers have adequate sturdy footwear and ask about health hazards, eg allergies, amongst volunteer group. Offer gumboots
- NB. *Open shoes, sandals or jandals are unsafe footwear for planting operations*
- Take First Aid kit
- If your group is a large group or school group check that supervising adults are familiar with the plants to be planted
- Volunteers should work in pairs, for safety and efficiency
- Use the opportunity of planting to teach flora identification, habitat requirements, plant life cycles
- Instruct and monitor the volunteers in the specifics of the day's planting (spacing, depth, placement, heeling in and pukeko defence.)
- Record and report work accomplished to Day Coordinator
- Thank volunteers.

Planting Principles

To maximise the success of the planting programme:

- Plant according to planting season plan – eg plant into weed eradicated areas
- Plant each species in areas suitable to their preferred soil type and conditions
- Planting should be at least 3m away from any track
- Archaeological sites must be recognised and cannot be planted
- Encourage volunteers to become skilled at identifying weeds and native species

- Encourage experienced volunteers to share their knowledge.

Planting Guide

- Space plants from root trainers and PB 3s 2 to 3 metres apart
- Plants in PB 5s and PB 8s are canopy trees, plant them 10 metres apart
- Explain the need to look for other plants before placing new plants
- Demonstrate the removal of plastic bags, and how to open root trainers
- Stress the need for plastic bags, and root trainers to be returned to tractor for reuse
- Demonstrate digging a hole, adding fertiliser tablet, and correct placement of plant
- Emphasise heeling in and need to protect from pukeko damage
- Planting near tracks or proposed track routes: plants and trees should be planted far enough back from tracks or planned track routes so that branches and foliage do not significantly block the route. In the case of proposed track routes marked with pegs, the pegs normally mark the upper side of the track. Flax should be planted at least 3.0metres away from track boundaries.