



KOROMIKO

(*Hebe stricta*)

Understory
2m



Description:

- Hebes, with around 100 species, are the largest genus of NZ flowering plants. Being easily hybridized, both in the wild and the nursery, classification is not simple
- Typically the leaf arrangement of a hebe is opposite pairs, each pair offset from its neighbour by 90 degrees. The entire structure is called a whorl
- 'Koromiko' is a name that has been given to more than one species. However *H. stricta*, a plant with open willow like leaves, has always been known as koromiko. It is a rapid grower ideal for the revegetation of open areas.

Fruit & Flowers:

- *H. stricta* flowers are white, with a touch of purple, occurring from summer to autumn. Full of nectar they attract the butterflies. Eggs are laid on plants such as *Muehlenbeckia* so chewing caterpillars do not destroy the adults nectar source
- The seed capsules are long and dull brown. Lingering from winter through to spring

Pests / Diseases:

- Like most hebes, *H. stricta* plays host to a multitude of insects and other invertebrates. Consequently the leaves can look chewed
- Hebes are not long living plants and die back is common