

Planting criteria & Guidelines

January 2024



The Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme (KMR) aims to restore the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana catchment, with a focus on halving sediment loss from land to sea.

Once an Expression of Interest has been accepted, landowners or community groups will work with a KMR Field Advisor to develop a Sediment Reduction Plan that will identify a range of remediation actions including planting.

This document briefly notes the KMR planting criteria and provides examples of good and poor planting.

KMR funding criteria – Planting

KMR can contribute up to 50% of estimated planting costs for Landowner grants, and up to 70% estimated planting costs for Whenua Whānui fund grants.

KMR's estimated planting rates are determined by the difficulty of planting site(s) which is informed by the terrain of the planting site(s), estimated planting conditions (e.g. weed/grass death), and accessibility to planting site for both planting team and delivery of plants.

KMR's planting rates can be viewed in the KMR schedule of pricing (refer to KMR website) The planting of riparian areas (including coastal margins as relevant), wetland edges, and highly erodible land within the Kaipara Moana catchment are eligible to apply for funding.

KMR's minimum eligible area for planting is 0.25 hectares of planting area (roughly 1,000 plants) for riparian and wetland areas, and generally more than 1 hectare of planting area for highly erodible land.

Guidelines

Fencing and planting

If landowners are applying for plants through KMR, it should be noted that KMR requires landowners to exclude stock from the planted area by way of fencing. KMR is also open to alternative forms of stock exclusion, such as Halter technology or similar.

A minimum of 80% plant survival rate must be observed at time of sign off by KMR Field Advisor.

When plants have been funded, the minimum setback for KMR is 5 metres from the bank-full to allow for the growth and spread of woody vegetation.

If fences are placed 3 metres from the bank-full, then only grasses and sedges will be funded.

Landowners and/or Planting teams need to ensure plants are setback from the fence by a minimum of 1 metre to ensure no damage to fences and/or to ensure electric fences are not shorted out by plant growth.

Planting zones and plant spacing

KMR has developed a Planting Guide (refer to KMR website) that KMR Field Advisors use when creating a Sediment Reduction Plan (SRP) for the property. Planting zones are mapped and photographed by KMR Field Advisors as part of this process.

It is imperative to understand what zone you will be planting as most KMR projects include multiple planting zones and this will dictate the plant species, plant spacing and stems per hectare required.

If in doubt, refer to the planting plan in the relevant SRP and/or contact the KMR Field Advisor.

For reference:

- Zone A (Wetland/lower bank) = 9000 stems per hectare, 1M spacing
- Zone B (Upper bank/Flood plain) = 4500 stems per hectare, 1.5M spacing
- Zone C (Dry bank above flood plain) = 4500 stems per hectare, 1.5M spacing
- Zone D (Highly Erodible Hillside) = 1600-2500 stems per hectare, 2-2.5M spacing

Plants and plant health

In general, KMR aims to use cell grade and 0.5L grade plants in KMR planting jobs.

All plants are required to be sourced from a KMR accredited nursery. If plant health/quality is questionable upon delivery please document and contact your KMR Field Advisor.

Common learnings for landowners

Planting teams and timing

- Leaving the planting project to the last minute and the weather turns before the planting can begin or be completed. If left too late in the season, planting becomes more difficult and the risk of less than 80% plant survival rate increases.
- The general rule of thumb is that planting should not occur much after August unless in a year-round wet area.
- Difficulty engaging with planting teams – book them in early or risk missing out completely. Refer to KMR preferred supplier list for a list of planting teams that have engaged with the KMR.
- It is the landowner responsibility to organise a planting team, and to pay the planting team. (KMR will pay the landowner the KMR contribution upon signing off the completed planting project)
- It is expected that the planting site is left tidy by planting teams. That is - no rubbish left on site. If possible, landowners can organise for the planting team to take plant trays with them back to the nursery for recycling. If not, it is the landowner's responsibility to dispose of trays appropriately.

Delivery of plants

- The Nursery will contact the landowner to organise a date, time, and location for delivery or pick up of plants.
- It is important to provide an appropriate drop off zone for the plants that ideally has access to water and is close to the planting site.
- If you are using a planting team, ensure you have communicated the above to the team and provided appropriate planting plans and info.

Planting quality

- In general, for planting projects over 2,500 stems, KMR recommends that landowners use a planting team to increase planting quality (especially if you have never planted before).
- Ensure that plants are 'healed in' and that all roots are below the ground surface.
- Healing in ensures roots are firmly pressed into the ground and helps prevent pest animals (pūkeko etc.) removing the plants after planting.
- Ensure that all plants are setback at least 1 metre from fence lines.
- Ensure the correct areas are planted with the correct species. (If in doubt, refer to planting plan and/or call the KMR field advisor).

Examples of good planting



A good example of planting project adhering to correct spacing on a riparian margin.

(Note: Landowner used plant guards for this project)



Example of a healthy plant, planted well - no roots exposed, firmly planted into soil.



A good example of a planting team leaving the site tidied for either nursery pick up of trays, or landowner disposal of trays.

Examples of poor planting



Planter has not maintained a 1-metre setback from the fence when planting.
This tree will likely damage the fence or be eaten by stock.