Agriculture & Investment Services
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

SFF Futures

Taking stock: **Resolving New Zealand's cultivated plants problem**

Snapshot

Industry partners: Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Inc, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, Massey University

Project length: 3 years

Start date: January 2020

Estimated completion date: January 2023

Industry funding: $471,500

MPI funding: $420,000

SFF Futures is supporting a major initiative to significantly improve the documentation and recording of cultivated plants in New Zealand.

The opportunity

Current knowledge and cataloguing of cultivated plants in New Zealand are poorly managed. This has implications for commercial growers and plant breeders who are trying to import new selections, germplasm and breeding stock under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms 1996 Act. There is also limited knowledge of the range of plants that could become weeds, and the potential hosts of plant pathogens and biocontrol vectors.

The solution

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Inc, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and Massey University will work with the horticultural industry to capture and resolve the names, identities and presence of numerous plant species in New Zealand that are of interest to the horticulture, production and biosecurity sectors. This will involve coordinating scattered information, checking the taxonomy of species and documenting the correct and current plant names.

Resolved plant names and associated data will be added to two comprehensive and publicly available databases: the New Zealand Plant Names Database (Ngā Tipu o Aotearoa) and the New Zealand Organisms Register (NZOR).

The benefits

This project is expected to benefit New Zealand by:

- enabling the industry to make more informed decisions when importing plants, and speeding up the import process. It may also help with regulatory decisions by enabling the industry to provide the information required;
- improving access to new germplasm for plant production and breeding;
- enabling industry to more effectively manage biosecurity, pest plants, disease and biocontrol vectors, and living collections.