

# RIPARIAN PLANTING GUIDE

## EAST OTAGO REGION

Riparian zones are the land beside a creek, river, lake or wetland. Planting native grasses, sedges, flaxes, shrubs and/or trees in riparian zones can improve the health of Otago's waterways by filtering nutrients before they reach the water, including nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria such as *E. coli*.

Riparian planting has other benefits too:

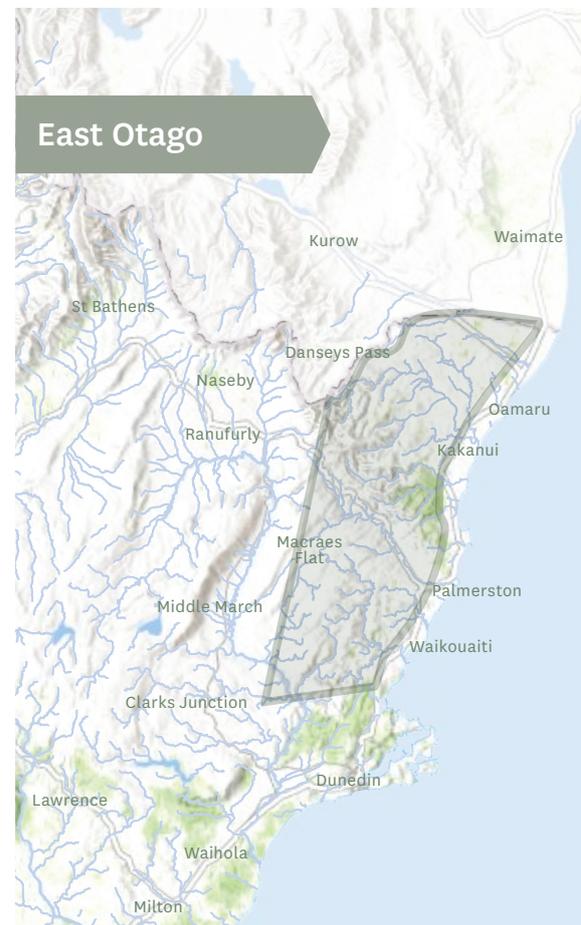
- ✓ Enhanced ecosystem health (including habitat for insects) and increased biodiversity
- ✓ Reduced sediment runoff and increased bank stabilisation
- ✓ Provides shade that decreases waterway temperatures (this reduces weed growth and provides stable temperatures for aquatic organisms)
- ✓ Provides shelter for stock
- ✓ Potential recreational opportunities such as fishing and swimming spots

**Check this guide to see which plants will work best for where you live.**

Planting guides are also available for Central Otago, Coastal Otago, South Otago, and Upper Clutha.

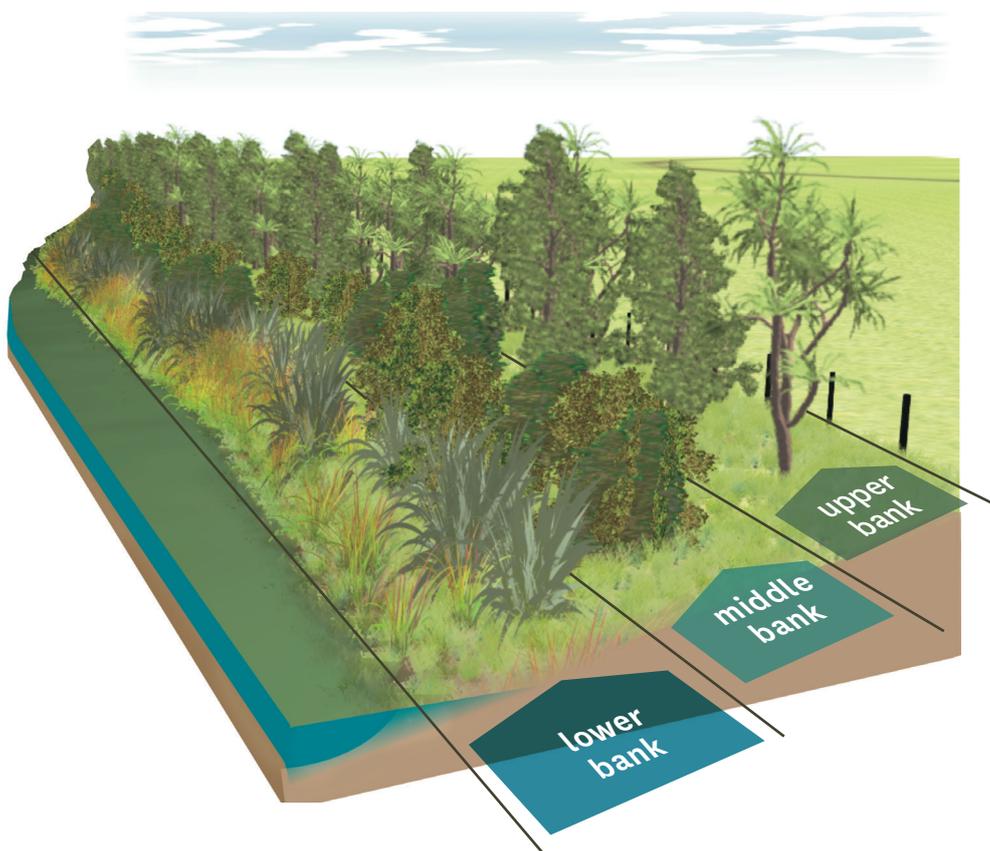


Otago is the second largest region in New Zealand and we have a diverse range of landscapes, so it's important to choose the right plants for your climate and soil type.









**Riparian zones can generally be divided into three areas:**

**■ Lower bank area**

Prone to flooding. Best for plant species that can tolerate waterlogged roots and survive many days under water.

**■ Middle bank area**

Plant species that can tolerate having damp feet.

**■ Upper bank area**

May partially flood every couple of years. Plant tree and shrub species that prefer dry conditions.

**This guide is not an exhaustive list and we recommend you talk to your local nursery to find out more about what grows best where you live.**

**When is the best time to plant?**

Spring is an ideal time to plant, although planting can be undertaken all year round dependent on specific site conditions.

Summer and winter are the least preferable seasons as plants are likely to be under

stress. If you're planting in summer, you will probably need to water the plants or add water retention crystals to ensure good plant survival.

If you're planting in autumn, make sure the plants have a few months to establish if they are likely to be inundated with water during winter/spring flows.