

Kahikatea Trees — NZ's tallest tree.

Step out 60 metres – that's how tall this tree can grow.

It is one of the emergent trees of the bush canopy.

It likes growing in wet areas.

As the wood has no smell, Kahikatea trees were cut down in the thousands by early European settlers and used for butter boxes and cheese crates. This was before we used plastic wrapping!!

Kahikatea have beautiful purple seeds with a tasty orange stalk, which were favourites of Maori and are being used today in modern Kiwi cuisine.



The young trees are thin and scraggly.

Photo by Phil Bendle



The wood was used for making bird spears.

Soot from burnt kahikatea was used as a pigment for ta moko (traditional tattooing).