

PROTECTING KAURI

Kauri are a native conifer that is found only in the north of Aotearoa. They can grow to great sizes (up to 60 metres tall, with trunks up to 7 metres wide) and live very long lives (up to 2000 years). Kauri are a keystone species and so are very important to their forest ecosystems.

Kauri once covered vast areas of Aotearoa's upper north island. Upon colonisation, the trees were logged extensively as their timber was highly valued. Today, only a small number of the kauri that once stood in Aotearoa remain.

A new threat to kauri was reported in Waitākere in 2006; a pathogen that infects the tree's roots and trunk. Infection by the pathogen reduces the ability for kauri to take water and nutrients up from the soil, and eventually the tree will die from the infection. This is called kauri dieback.



Use the internet to look up the natural range of kauri and colour it in on the map below.



Why do you think kauri don't grow further south?

To protect kauri, do we...

Wash our shoes before or after walking near kauri?

.....

Walk on or off the track in kauri reserves?

.....

Walk on closed tracks, or find another place to walk?

.....



NEW WORDS

Conifer

A conifer is

Ecosystem

An ecosystem is

Kauri dieback

Kauri dieback is

Keystone species

Keystone species are

Natural range

Natural range is

Oomycete

Oomycetes are

Pathogen

Pathogens are

HERE'S A HINT!

Kauri dieback is caused by a micro-organism, specifically an oomycete.

Unscramble the words below to learn the name of the oomycete that causes kauri dieback.

UNSCRAMBLE THIS!

— — — — —
Y R P T A H P T H H O O

— — — — —
A T D C I G A I H D A I