

# Mānuka

*Leptospermum scoparium*

FACT SHEET



**Captain Cook called mānuka “tea tree”– he boiled the leaves to make a drink. Some types creep over the ground, and some are trees 10 metres tall.**

### **Māori use**

Mānuka was a handy rongoā (medicine). Its ashes were rubbed on dandruff. Tea made from the leaves eased fevers.

### **Where they are found**

Mānuka’s tough – it lives all over New Zealand, from wetlands to lower alpine areas.

### **4 Facts**

- 1** Captain Cook used the twigs to make beer.
- 2** European settlers cleared forests, but then mānuka sprang up on their land instead!
- 3** You can tell mānuka from kānuka by its pointy-tipped leaves and flaky bark.
- 4** Its honey and pollen are great for protecting us against bacteria and worms.

### **Did you know**

The flowers are important kai for native bees, flies, moths, beetles, and geckos.

### **Threats**

Sometimes mānuka is cleared to make farms, but there’s still a lot around.

### **How you can help**

Plant a few mānuka together to start a nursery for other native plants.