

... WHEN VISITING THE UPPER NORTH ISLAND

Kauri dieback disease is killing one of Aotearoa/New Zealand's taonga (treasures) – our unique kauri forests. But kauri trees will be saved ... with the help of responsible visitors like you

Kauri are one of the longest-living trees in the world. They only grow in New Zealand, and are of huge cultural importance to New Zealanders. But kauri trees are threatened with extinction by a disease that is spread between trees by people carrying tiny amounts of contaminated soil on their footwear and other gear.

- 1 Clean all soil off your footwear and other gear (including hiking poles, clothing and bags), every time you enter or leave a forest area. This is to avoid introducing kauri dieback disease to a new area, or moving it from an area where the disease is. A pinhead of soil is enough to spread the disease. Do not use water (including stream water) to clean, unless it will be captured in a sewer, for instance the pathogen that causes dieback is a water mould, and is activated by water.
- 2 Use disinfectant only after you have removed all the soil. Spray it on all the areas that have come into contact with the ground.
- 3 Don't go off-track for any reason (including to hug a kauri!). A kauri's roots are extremely delicate, grow close to the surface, are susceptible to disease, and can grow outwards 3x as far as a tree's branches).
- If you use hiking poles, use rubber feet on your poles to minimise the amount of soil your poles pick up.
- 5 Never assume anywhere is free of kauri dieback. Infected trees may not show it.
- **6** Spread the word within your networks about the need for mountain bikers to help stop the spread of kauri dieback, and be seen doing the right thing. Everyone has a part to play in saving kauri.







About kauri dieback

The pathogen that causes kauri dieback is microscopic, 'smart,' and tough. It is possible that it can infect new trees even after having been outside the forest – for instance, on footwear or equipment – for at least six years. When near kauri trees, it can sense where a kauri tree's roots are, and then 'swim' towards them through the soil. It kills most if not all kauri trees it infects, of all ages.

Kauri trees grow throughout the upper

North Island; if you're in natural forest and you're in the upper North Island, it's likely you'll be near kauri trees.

People are the main way that kauri dieback disease is spread, through the movement of contaminated soil. But by taking the time to clean your footwear and other gear, responsible visitors like you are helping save kauri, along with the rest of the community.

There is no cure for kauri dieback.

For more information go to www.kauridieback.co.nz, email kauridieback@mpi.govt.nz, or call 0800 NZ KAURI.

Visit the **Department of Conservation's** walking and tramping pages.

Visit Tourism New Zealand's walking and hiking pages.

Visit the homepage of **Te Araroa Trail**.

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