FACT SHEET 2

MOIST UPLAND HARDWOOD FOREST

The Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project has described and mapped 14 distinct native plant communities on Norfolk Island. This series of fact sheets presents information about each of the communities.

Moist Upland Hardwood Forest

Thick hardwood forest mostly in the Norfolk Island National Park.

This native plant community grows on the slopes of valleys around the mountains, between the Moist Palm Gully Forest and the Pine-Hardwood Ridge Forest communities.

The forest is relatively species-diverse, but generally lacks some species that occur at lower altitude and includes a few species that prefer higher (moister) altitudes. One of the key species, sharkwood, is a medium-sized tree with a distinctive strong garlic-like smell during the spring months. Flowers are yellow and the seeds form in capsules and are red when mature.

Indicative species composition

The table on the next page identifies the key species present (those species that are most characteristic of the plant community), other species (additional species that are likely to be present and assist in defining the community), and some of the threatened species present.

Moist Upland Hardwood Forest, Mount Bates area. Photo: Kevin Mills

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Plant community	Key species	Other species	Threatened species
Moist Upland Hardwood Forest	• Sharkwood (*Dysoxylon bijugum*) • Beech (*Myrsine ralstoniae*) • Ironwood (*Nestegis apetala*) • Native oleander (*Pittosporum bracteolatum*)	• Norfolk pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) • Narrow leaved meryta (*Meryta angustifolia*) • Ti (*Cordyline obtecta*) • Bastard oak (*Ungeria floribunda*) • Pennantia (*Pennantia endlicheri*) • Euodia (*Melicope littoralis*)	• Mountain coprosma (*Coprosma pilosa*) • Ti (*Cordyline obtecta*) • Sharkwood (*Dysoxylon bijugum*) • Smooth shieldfern (*Lastreopsis calantha)* • Euodia (*Melicope littoralis*) • Melicytus (*Melicytus latifolius*) • Narrow leaved meryta (*Meryta angustifolia*) • Beech (*Myrsine ralstoniae*) • Pennantia (*Pennantia endlicheri*) • Native oleander (*Pittosporum bracteolatum*) • Bastard oak (*Ungeria floribunda*) • Kurrajong (*Wikstroemia australis*)

Further information

These fact sheets are based on the Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project conducted by the Invasive Species Council between 2018 and 2020. Naomi Christian and Dr Kevin Mills conducted the vegetation surveys, and described and mapped the native plant communities. Two maps were produced – one showing the estimated distribution of native plant communities in 1750, and one showing their distribution in 2020.

The plant community maps are available at:

- www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project
- www.invasives.org.au/niveg

There are 180 native plant species on the Norfolk Island Group, of which around 25% are endemic. Forty-six species have been identified as threatened with extinction. Describing and mapping the 14 native plant communities was done to help land managers protect and restore habitat for these threatened species and other wildlife of Norfolk Island.

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