



Sample garden plan

Here is an example of a modest three-bedroom cedar house, where the garden is designed to be low maintenance with sunny outdoor-living areas, while still providing the essentials for wildlife habitat.

This example uses native species, which is advisable for locations near native bush because of the potential for spreading weeds. However, if you are nowhere near bush and enjoy exotic species, there's no reason not to add them to the mix.

The garden is broken into separate but linked spaces to create pockets of outdoor living with views to other spaces.

The spaces vary from being enclosed with more tree canopy to quite open areas where the vegetation recedes and the sky opens up. A simple choice of hard materials includes small pebbles, large cement pavers, and railway sleepers. In some areas, natives are planted sparsely with the hard materials dominating. In others, massed natives provide striking simplicity and the required plant density for birds.

From the street the entrance is enclosed and framed by kōwhai (*Sophora microphylla*) and a broadleaf hedge (*Griselinia littoralis*), providing vertical complexity and privacy, and opening to a small-pebbled courtyard for morning coffees.

Beyond that is a small rock garden providing habitat for lizards that is to be viewed from the south facing windows, with rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) providing a strong backdrop and abundant fruit in season. A water feature links the rock garden to the north-west corner. This corner provides a much needed courtyard space surrounded by densely planted cabbage trees (*Cordyline australis*) and flax (*Phormium* spp.) to again provide privacy and bird food, but not shade.

On the north side of the house is a series of small amenity areas that are screened off by corokia (*Corokia* spp.) and hebe (*Hebe* spp.) hedges. A view to a sculpture provides a vista to lengthen the line of sight. These and other plants were chosen to form a 'community' that provides fruit and flower throughout the year (Table 2). Neighbours are being encouraged to plant their gardens in a complementary way, especially along adjoining property lines, to create larger continuous patches.

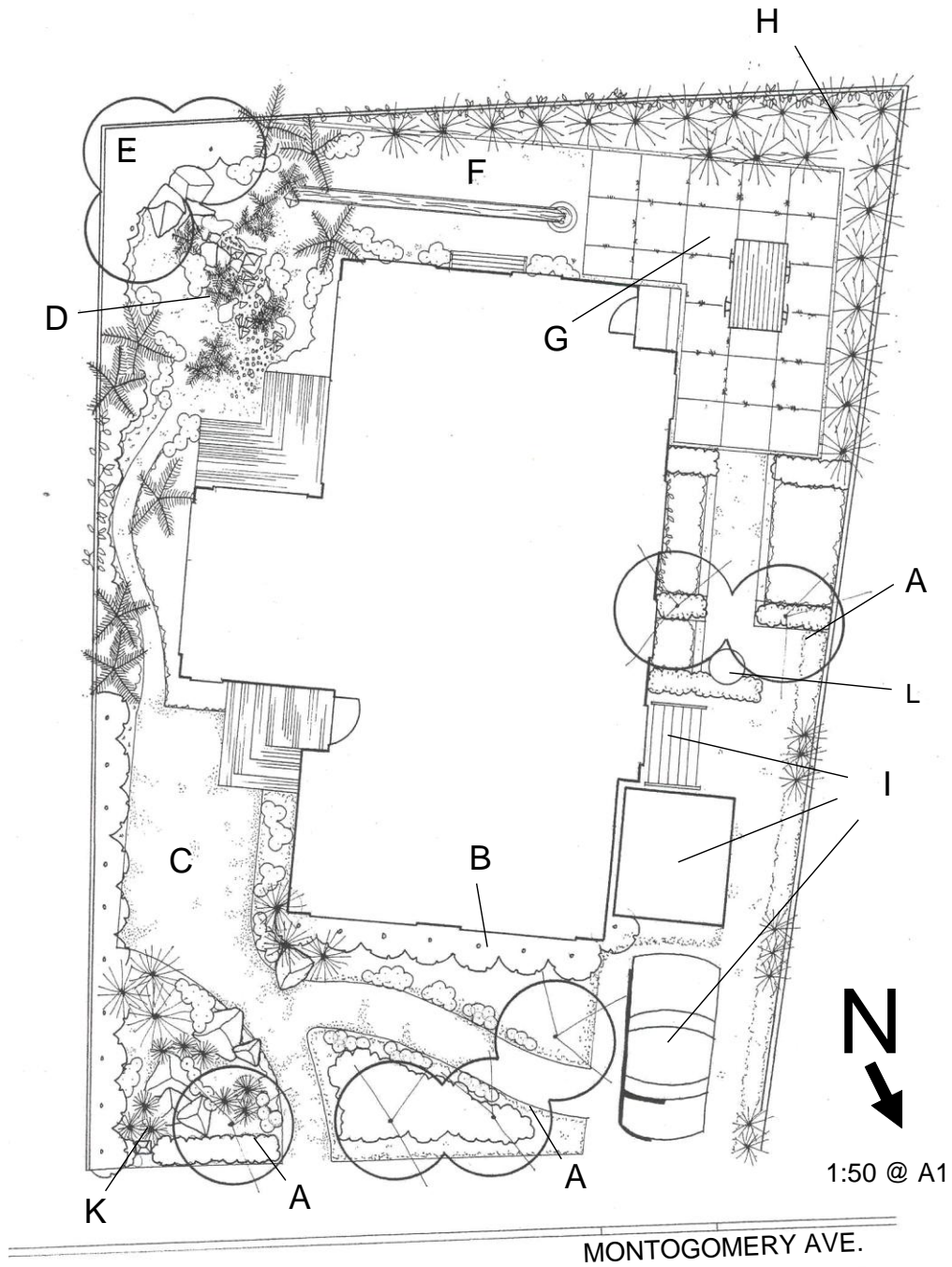


Figure 1 Garden design

A kōwhai; **B** *Griselinia littoralis*; **C** pebbled courtyard; **D** rock garden; **E** rewarewa; **F** water feature; **G** paved courtyard; **H** cabbage trees and flax; **I** amenities; **J** *Corokia* hedge; **K** *Aciphylla*, *Scleranthus*, *Hebe*, *Libertia grandiflora* rockery; **L** sculpture.

Table 2 Food plants used in the garden plan (FL = flowering, FR = fruiting)

Plant species	Timing of flowering or fruiting											
	Spring			Summer			Autumn			Winter		
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>		FL	FL	FL	FL	FR						
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>				FL	FL		FR					
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	FL	FL/FR	FL/FR	FL/FR	FR							FL
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>					FR	FR	FR	FL/FR	FL/FR	FL		
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>			FL									
<i>Cordyline australis</i>			FL	FL		FR	FR	FR	FR			
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>			FL	FL	FL/FR	FL/FR	FR	FR				

<i>tenuifolium</i>													
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	FL/FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FL	FL/FR	FL
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>					FL/FR	FL/FR	FL/FR	FL/FR					
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	FR				FL	FL/FR	FL	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
<i>Solanum</i> spp.	FL/FR	FL	FL	FL	FL/FR	FL/FR	FL/FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	FL	FL											
TOTAL	7	8	14	13	15	14	15	13	9	6	4	5	