

Industry commodity based levy on all nursery sales YES/NO..... tell us what you think...

by Les Anstis

Having just attended an NGINZ conference I am still vacillating as to whether it represents a collection of visionaries paving a way forward for the industry or a bunch of bureaucrats protecting their sweet number in the halls of Wellington.

They lectured to us "about the MPI's vision of the GIA as an OPPORTUNITY to partner and co-invest in matters such as biosecurity" ...and we need the NGINZ as our advocate otherwise WE ARE DOOMED. Oooh! by the way did I mention for the privilege of this excellent NGINZ advocacy and interpretation of government "speak"; a commodity based levy on all nursery sales will be imposed against nurseries.....more costs.

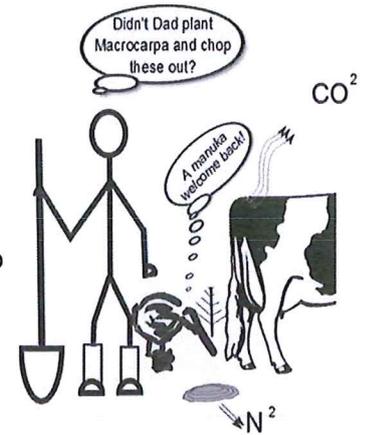
A strong united visionary body could add serious value to the sustainability and growth of our industry but the cynical counter is that this is a money grab for an association with declining membership to grow the bureaucrats' portfolio and thereby command larger remuneration packages.

Potentially this affects us all whether you are a member of NGINZ or not. There are roadshows around the country in late July and early August outlining the process and to get a legislative change. This will need industry support. Learn about it and make sure you vote.

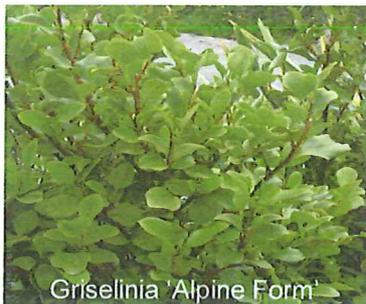
This year Naturally Native attended the Mystery Creek Fieldays for the first time in the last 10 years promoting our Environmental/Riparian plants. In spite of the weather, Kaimais closing due to slips and Teresa losing her voice... it was a success.

Back in the nursery the retail sector has slowed down but the Commercial and Rural plants are flying... sometime floating out the door. We have had 2 significantly major weather events of storms and frosts, the latter even tickling up the "frost hardy species".

If you want "hardy" plants, Naturally Native is the place to go. The harsher weather in Oropi comes with mixed blessings.



Focus Plants



Griselinia 'Alpine Form'

Griselinias are a well known plant used extensively as hedges in urban areas. An alternative use for these plants is in their free form in a 'bush scape' to contrast against the typically dark green other natives. The bold, vivid light green leaf stands out. The *Griselinia Lucida* is the most effective with its larger leaf but can be damaged by frost when young. There is a range of alternative species (*littoralis*, *Alpine Form*, *Twilight* etc) each with different characteristics that will give a similar effect but may better suit the application.

Carpodetus serratus prostrata (Putaputaweta - small) is not a well known plant but attracts a lot of attention as a hedge when seen. It prunes into a tight tangled mass that is impossible to walk through, is frost tolerant, wind tolerant and can withstand a wide range of growing conditions.



Carpodetus serratus prostrata

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