

# Lake Alta

An inhospitable home to resourceful plants.



Lake Alta is located in the alpine zone, defined as the area between the tree line and the lower limit of the permanent snow line.

Alpine plants growing in this zone are characterised by their tough, resourceful and adaptable qualities. They are able to grow and reproduce in low temperatures and to thrive under both hot and cold conditions. Many cling to exposed and unstable foundations, from infertile soil to shattered rock, with deep root systems that anchor them in the wind and provide access to water and nutrients below the barren rocks and soil.

These hardy plants have also evolved effective means of reproduction in desolate environments. With flowers that are small and either white or yellow, these alpine plants are often pollinated by flies, beetles and moths that can't detect colour. A number rely on wind to spread their seeds, while others are dispersed by birds, lizards and insects.

The inhospitable environments that our alpine plants endure help protect them from other threats. However, since European arrival, introduced plants and animals have affected native plant species and their habitats. Human disturbances to our mountain landscapes from activities such as construction works, roads, walking and bike trails remove natural vegetation and create open spaces, providing perfect conditions for invasive species.

Alpine habitats and the plants that grow in these places are extremely fragile, easily disturbed and very slow growing, so please tread lightly and carefully!

## About the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust

We restore native biodiversity through advocacy, collaboration and community education.

For over ten years, our volunteers have been growing plants local to this area at the Jean Malpas Community Nursery and planting them out at strategic revegetation sites. Our vision? A Whakatipu Basin that hums with native plants, insects and birdlife.



### Our volunteers help with:

- Eco-sourced seed collection
- Native plant propagation
- Nursery operations
- Planting days in spring and autumn
- Site maintenance
- Trust administration

Visit our website to learn more and make a donation.

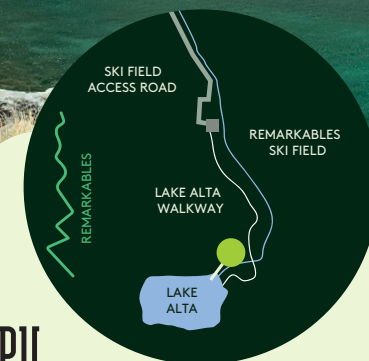
[www.wrtqt.org.nz](http://www.wrtqt.org.nz)



# Plant Hunt

How many will you find?

LAKE ALTA



Created by



**WHAKATIPU**  
REFORESTATION TRUST

Restoring native biodiversity to the Whakatipu Basin



**Mountain foxglove**  
*Ourisia glandulosa*



**Hectorella**  
*Hectorella caespitosa*



**Woollyhead**  
*Craspedia* sp.



**Willowherb**  
*Epilobium tasmanicum*



**South Island edelweiss**  
*Leucogenes grandiceps*



**Mountain shield fern**  
*Polystichum cytotegia*



**Veronica densifolia**  
*Veronica densifolia*



**Cushion inaka**  
*Dracophyllum muscoides*



**Large-flowered mat daisy**  
*Raoulia grandiflora*



**Haast's mountain daisy**  
*Celmisia haastii* var. *haastii*



**Speargrass**  
*Aciphylla lecomtei*



**Blue tussock**  
*Poa colensoi*