



Aucklanders encouraged to be more bio-diverse

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By 3 News online staff

Today marks International Day for Biological Diversity, and Aucklanders are being encouraged to learn how they can improve the region's biodiversity.

Celebrated in 32 countries, the day is a United Nations initiative that aims to increase the understanding and awareness of how important healthy bio-diverse ecosystems are.

It is believed more than half of New Zealand's birds and around one-third of native shrubs, trees and fern species are found in the Auckland region alone.

Auckland Council manager of environmental services Gael Ogilvie says this time of year is ideal to remove weeds from gardens and plant native plants to ensure wildlife are welcomed into backyards once spring arrives.

"Auckland residents are encouraged to clear pest plants and weeds from their gardens and replace them with native options," she says.

"People often associate biodiversity protection with forests and wetlands but backyards play an important role too. They act as stepping stones for birds travelling throughout the region and provide habitat for species such as our native lizards and butterflies."

For information on restoring native biodiversity in urban gardens, visit [Auckland Council's website](#).

