



In New Zealand, inflation and price increases have sent food prices sky-high, and large numbers of people are **foraging** to get food.

Foraging is popular in Christchurch, the largest city in the South Island, where earthquakes demolished over 7,500 homes in 2010 and 2011. Local authorities designated a '**red zone**' that was considered too unstable to rebuild buildings. Many backyard fruit trees were left to grow wild and continue to grow fruit, and they made it a heaven for food **foragers**.

In the beginning, many people came out of necessity, as they realized that they could pick and eat fruit, walnuts, or mushrooms for free. However, they quickly saw that foraging was a great way to connect with nature, learn about seasons, and learn what grows in the seasons.

Difficult words: **foraging** (going from place to place and searching for things that you can eat or use), **red zone** (an area that's dangerous or forbidden), **forager** (a person or animal that goes from place to place to search for things that they can eat or use).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *foraging*, *red zone* and *forager*
2. Why have people in New Zealand resorted to foraging? And which part of the country is foraging most popular?
3. Why were the 7,500 homes in Christchurch demolished?
4. What happened to Christchurch after thousands of homes were demolished?
5. How did Christchurch become a heaven for foragers?
6. At first, why did many people come to the red zone?
7. What did people realize about foraging soon after?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Are there areas in your country that have been designated as a red zone after big earthquakes hit? What has happened to these areas?
2. Are there people in your country who forage around wild gardens either out of necessity or to connect with nature?
3. Are people allowed to freely pick fruit and vegetables that grow in wild gardens?