

Myrtle rust

Have you seen this plant disease?

Call Biosecurity Queensland on
13 25 23 if you see this pest

Myrtle rust was first detected in Queensland in December 2010. It is a serious fungal disease and part of the eucalyptus/guava rust complex. This group of pathogens affects plants belonging to the Myrtaceae family including Australian natives like bottle brush (*Callistemon* spp.), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* spp.).

Under Queensland legislation authorities must be notified of all plants suspected of being infected with myrtle rust.

What does myrtle rust look like?

First signs of myrtle rust infection are tiny raised spots or pustules on infected leaves. After a few days these pustules turn a distinctive egg-yolk yellow colour. The rust poses no threat to human or animal health.

What plants can be infected with myrtle rust?

Myrtle rust is known only to affect myrtaceous plants. Currently, there are more than 25 known host species affected by or susceptible to myrtle rust.

Myrtle rust has been found in Australia on the following plants:

Acmena sp. (lilly pilly)

Agonis flexuosa (willow myrtle) 'Afterdark', 'Burgundy', 'Jeddas Dream'

Austromyrtus inophloia (see *Gossia inophloia*)

Backhousia citriodora (lemon-scented myrtle)

Backhousia myrtifolia (grey myrtle)

Callistemon viminalis (weeping bottlebrush)

Callistemon salignus (willow bottlebrush)

Callistemon 'St Mary MacKillop'

Chamelaucium uncinatum (Geraldton wax)

Choricarpia leptopetala (brown myrtle or rusty turpentine)

Eucalyptus agglomerata (blue-leaved stringybark)

Eucalyptus deanei (mountain blue gum or Deane's gum)

Eucalyptus pilularis (blackbutt)

Gossia inophloia 'Aurora' and 'Blushing Beauty' (syn. *Austromyrtus inophloia*)

Leptospermum rotundifolium (round-leaved tea tree)

Lophomyrtus bullata 'Rainbow's End'

Lophomyrtus x ralphii 'Red Dragon', 'Black Stallion', 'Krinkly'

Melaleuca quinquenervia (broad-leaved paperbark)

Melaleuca linariifolia 'Claret tops'

Metrosideros collina 'Tahiti' and 'Fiji'

Rhodamnia rubescens (scrub turpentine)

Rhodomyrtus psidioides (native guava)

Syncarpia glomulifera (turpentine)

Syzygium australe 'Meridian Midget'

Syzygium jambos (rose apple)

Syzygium luehmannii (small-leaved lilly pilly, riberry)

Syzygium luehmannii x *Syzygium wilsonii* 'Cascade' (lilly pilly)

Tristania neriifolia (water gum)

Xanthostemon chrysanthus (golden penda)



How does myrtle rust spread?

Myrtle rust is spread by very small spores carried by wind, bees and/or birds. The disease can also be spread through the movement of:

- infected plant material such as seeds, nursery stock and germplasm
- spores on timber, wood packaging and dunnage
- contaminated freight containers
- people carrying spores on clothing, shoes, equipment and other personal effects.

How quickly does myrtle rust spread?

Depending on environmental conditions, the disease can spread rapidly when carried on plant material, by people, vehicles, wind or by bees and birds.

Can I transport my plants?

People wanting to move myrtaceous plants interstate must check with the relevant state agriculture departments before moving the plant material.

Anyone who have infected plants on their property must not under any circumstances move or dispose of the plant. All suspect plants must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland.

What do I do if I see myrtle rust?

Do not move the infected plant material to avoid spreading the disease, and report all suspect plants immediately to Biosecurity Queensland or by calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline.

For further information or to report a suspect plant, visit or call:

Biosecurity Queensland

www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

13 25 23

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

1800 084 881



Myrtle rust on thready barked myrtle (*Austromyrtus inophloia*) (Kevin Cooper, Department of Industry and Investment, New South Wales)



Myrtle rust on *Melaleuca linarifolia* (Angus Carnegie, Department of Industry and Investment, New South Wales)



Myrtle rust on turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) (Angus Carnegie, Department of Industry and Investment, New South Wales)



Myrtle rust on willow myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*) (Angus Carnegie, Department of Industry and Investment, New South Wales)

