



Myrtle Rust on
broad leaved
paperbark

BIO-SECURITY ALERT

Australian plants under threat from **MYRTLE RUST**

What is Myrtle Rust?

Myrtle Rust (*Uredo rangelii*) is a newly detected fungus that is closely related to the Eucalyptus/Guava rusts. These rusts are **serious pathogens** which affect plants in the family Myrtaceae including many iconic Australian natives like willow myrtle (*Agonis* sp.), bottle brush (*Callistemon* sp.) and turpentine trees (*Syncarpia glomulifera*).

Myrtle Rust infects leaves of susceptible plants producing spore-filled lesions on young actively growing leaves and shoots, as well as fruits and sepals. Leaves may become buckled or twisted as a result of infection. Severe rust disease in young trees may kill shoot tips, causing loss of leaders and a bushy habit.

On turpentine and callistemon rust lesions are purple, with masses of bright yellow or orange-yellow spores. Older lesions may contain dark brown spores.

Rust spores travel very long distances on the wind and may infect stands of susceptible plants many kilometres from the original infestation. Humans can also easily spread Myrtle Rust in infested plant material including cut flowers and nursery stock, on clothing and dirty equipment including containers and pruning shears and on contaminated timber products.

Photos courtesy of NSW Department of Industry and Investment.

Myrtle rust is a notifiable disease in NSW - You have a legal responsibility to report it

**To make a report email
bushland@hornsby.nsw.gov.au or call 9847 6832**

For more information visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust

Close-up of Myrtle Rust on turpentine leaves

INSPECT THE SITE

And if you find Myrtle Rust:

- **REPORT** to the Council's Bushland and Biodiversity Team on 9847 6832
- **TAKE A PHOTO** and send to bushland@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Several recent cases of Myrtle rust are a direct result of careless bio-security practice when working with Myrtaceae plants.

PROTECT AGAINST SPREADING

- Don't take a specimen or move the plants off the site
- Shut down the work site
- Change into clean garments and wash face and hands, boots, the vehicle and equipment
- Don't move to a clean site in infected clothes
- Always regularly launder clothes, hats and gloves and spray or dip boots in 70% methylated spirits or benzyl alkonium chloride (surface disinfectant)

Myrtle Rust on scrub turpentine (below)



for further information www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust

CURRENTLY INFECTING

Garden plants

- Acmena sp.* (lilly pilly)
- Agonis flexuosa* (Willow myrtle)
- Austromyrtus inophloia* (Aurora and Blushing beauty)
- Backhousia citriodora* (lemon-scented myrtle)
- Callistemon salignus* (willow bottlebrush)
- Callistemon* (St Mary MacKillop)
- Chamelaucium uncinatum* (Geraldton wax)
- Choricarpia leptopetala* (Brown myrtle or rusty turpentine)
- Leptospermum rotundifolium* (Tea tree)
- Lophomyrtus x ralphii* (Red Dragon and Black Stallion)
- Lophomyrtus bullata* (Rainbow's end)
- Metrosideros collina* (Dwarf tahiti)
- Metrosideros sp.* (NZ Christmas bush)
- Melaleuca linariifolia* (Claret tops)
- Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (Native guava)
- Syzygium leumannii* (Lilly pilly)
- Syzygium luehmannii x Syzygium wilsonii 'Cascade'* (lilly pilly)
- Syzygium jambos* (Rose apple)
- Syzygium australe* (Meridian midget)
- Syzygium anisatum* (Aniseed myrtle)
- Xanthostemon chrysanthus* (Golden penda)

Bushland plants

- Backhousia myrtifolia* (Grey myrtle)
- Callistemon viminalis* (Bottle brush)
- Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt)
- Eucalyptus deanei* (Deane's blue gum)
- Eucalyptus agglomerata* (Blue-leaved stringybark)
- Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Broad-leaved paperbark)
- Rhodamnia rubescens* (Scrub turpentine)
- Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine)
- Tristania neriifolia* (Water gum)

To make a report call Council's Bushland and Biodiversity Team on **9847 6832** or email bushland@hornsby.nsw.gov.au



Hornsby Shire Council
296 Pacific Highway, Hornsby 2077
PO Box 37, Hornsby NSW 1630
Telephone 9847 6666
www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au