

Myrtle rust

Have you seen this plant disease?

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

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

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 infection are tiny raised pustules on infected leaves. After a few days these pustules turn an egg-yolk yellow colour.



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

What plants can be infected with myrtle rust?

Myrtle rust only affects myrtaceous plants. Currently, there are more than 25 known host species susceptible to myrtle rust. These include willow myrtle (*Agonis*), turpentine (*Syncarpia*), bottlebrush (*Callistemon*), scrub turpentine (*Rhodamnia*), broad-leaved paperbark (*Melaleuca*), *Austromyrtus* 'Aurora' and 'Blushing Beauty'.



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

PR11-5659



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)

What do I do if I see myrtle rust?

Do not move any infected plant material to avoid spreading the disease, and report the location immediately to:

Biosecurity Queensland

13 25 23

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

1800 084 881



Queensland Government