

Myrtle Rust & Garden Retail & Landscape Guidance

The following simple strategies should be applied (where possible) across all retailers, landscapers and others who receive myrtaceous plants from nurseries in Northland. Those receiving plants from nurseries outside of Northland are nevertheless advised to adopt similar procedures as a matter of good biosecurity practice.

1. **Staff awareness** – Share this document, the Myrtle Rust Identification Guide, and NZPPI website with all staff to raise awareness of the disease. Talk about what to look for and to do if they find anything suspicious.
2. **Nursery hygiene assurance** – Ask your nursery suppliers if they grow Myrtaceae species. If “yes”, the seek assurances from the nursery that they have adopted the following NZPPI protocols:
 - a) Nursery Management Protocol, including preventative fungicide treatments
 - b) Myrtaceae Plant Inspection Protocol
 - c) Plant Transport Protocol (is used by their own drivers or their third-party carrier)
 - d) And that they sterilize their pallets, trolleys, frames and other shipping containers.
3. **Quarantine incoming plant stock** - Maintain a quarantine area for imported plant stock with a suitable buffer zone.. Inspect plant stock upon arrival.
 - a) **If you find anything suspicious, call MPI - 0800 80 99 66.**
If possible, isolate the plants with an igloo-hoop-like plastic cover.
 - b) If you did not find anything suspicious, spray with one of the recommended fungicides.
4. **Crop aggregation** - Consolidate all myrtaceous plant species within a defined area on-site and away from native or landscape planted myrtaceous plant species. Avoid direct exposure (buffer) to the prevailing winds of the season.
5. **Plant Inspection schedule** - Periodically (weekly) survey myrtaceous species on-site, or along property boundaries, roads etc.
6. **Preventative fungicide programme** - Implement a fortnightly fungicide treatment programme across all myrtaceous plants you hold in stock. stock (see “Myrtle Rust Fungicide Treatments” at www.nzppi.co.nz/myrtlerust). If using fungicides on a regular basis, ensure a suitable fungicide rotation

Protocols and guidance for the procedures referred to in this document can be found on the NZPPI Myrtle Rust webpage:

www.nzppi.co.nz/myrtlerust

unless otherwise specified.

- Myrtaceae Species list
- Nursery Management Protocol
- Plant Inspection protocol
- Fungicide Treatments list
- Plant Transport Protocol
- Nursery management protocol declaration
- Myrtle Rust Identification Guide



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system is in place to prevent resistance development to a particular group of fungicides

7. **Treat display beds** - Treat display and holding beds when tidying between crops with a disinfectant (eg copper) before placing a new crop down on the display, holding or bench area.
8. **Remove waste material** - Dispose of all waste plant material from garden centre via bulk waste, composting or deep burial.
9. **Personal hygiene** – Have staff wash hands before commencing work at the start of the day, and after breaks using a hand sanitation product
10. **Disinfest all tools and equipment** - All items including surfaces using a recognised industry disinfectant such as Virkon S, or a combination of 70% Methylated Spirits and 30% water.
11. **Dealing with the public** – Prepare staff for questions from the public – see NZPPI Key Messages at www.nzppi.co.nz/myrtlerust, the articles at www.gogardening.co.nz and the MPI and DOC websites - www.mpi.govt.nz and www.doc.govt.nz.
12. **Garden Chemicals** – Few home garden chemicals are registered for rust diseases. Those that are include:
 - a) Myclobutanil – available as Yates Fungus Fighter; Yates Super Shield; Kiwicare Spectrum; Combat.
 - b) Azoxystrobin – available as Kiwicare Rose Force.

If you find anything suspicious

1. Do not move the plants from the site or your truck.
2. Take photos of the suspected myrtle rust and the whole plant.
3. Do not attempt to touch or collect samples as this may increase the spread of this disease.
4. If possible, isolate the plants with an igloo-hoop-like plastic cover.
5. **Call MPI's exotic pests and diseases hotline on 0800 80 99 66.**