

Myrtle Rust Identification Guide

Myrtle rust attacks young, soft, actively growing leaves, shoots and young stems, and sometimes flowers and fruit. Initial symptoms are powdery, bright yellow or orange-yellow pustules on leaves, tips and stems. The developing lesions may cause a deformation of the leaves and shoots, and twig dieback and plant death if the infection is severe and the species highly susceptible. Look for:

- bright yellow powdery eruptions appearing on the underside of the leaf (young infection)
- bright yellow powdery eruptions on both sides of the leaf (mature infection)
- brown/grey rust pustules (older spores) can appear on older lesions
- leaves may become buckled or twisted and die off

Myrtle rust on pohutukawa in Kerikeri



Symptoms vary – photos courtesy Angus Carnegie (NSW Department of Primary Industries)



Biosecurity Queensland - Suzy Perry,

Syzygium jambos - Queensland NGIQ

Raoul Island - MPI

More photos at www.nzppi.co.nz/myrtlerustphotos