

Myrtle Rust & Plant Transport Protocol

A big component in the effort in containing Myrtle Rust comes down to insuring plant movements do not spread the disease further. With growers and retailers, plant transporters, both dedicated commercial carriers and growers who transport their own plant stock, have a role to play in helping keep Myrtle Rust contained.

All who transport plant stock within or out of high risk areas (eg. Northland) are strongly urged to follow these simple steps. Those operating outside of high risk areas are nevertheless advised to adopt similar procedures as a matter of desirable biosecurity practice.

1. **Nursery hygiene assurance** – Ask the nursery if they grow Myrtaceae species. If “yes”, the seek the nursery’s assurance that they have adopted the NZPPI:
 - a) Nursery Management Protocol, including preventative fungicide treatments
 - b) Myrtaceae Plant Inspection Protocol
 - c) And that they sterilize their pallets, trolleys, frames and other shipping containers with Virkon S (or equivalent).
2. **Check plants** – Inspect stock, trolleys, pallets and cartons before you load paying attention to any plants that look stressed and have yellow rust spores.
3. **If you see anything suspicious, isolate the stock. Call MPI 0800 80 99 66.**
4. **If clean** – If all stock in the consignment appears clean, you may proceed.
5. **Disinfest Tyres** – as a precautionary measure, stop as you enter and leave a nursery and spray tyres with Virkon S (or equivalent).
6. **Check plants at destination** – Inspect plants as you offload at the destination ... ensure they are clean.
7. **Plant debris** – When you clean out debris from your truck deck, bag it dispose via bulk waste, composting or deep burial.
8. **Disinfest gear daily** – disinfest truck deck and any equipment (trolleys, frames, pallet jacks ...) that has come in contact with plants with Virkon S (or equivalent) – do not use chlorine; it may corrode the deck.

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.**

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 declaration
- Myrtle Rust Identification Guide

