



## Latest information

The number of new finds since 9 March brings the total number of infected properties to 431.

## Myrtle Rust (MR) Stakeholder Update

This update includes key information from the situation reports (SITREPs) from both Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Department of Conservation (DOC).

Red text below indicates new information since the 16 March 2018 update.

For information about this update, contact [MR2017 Liaison@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:MR2017.Liaison@mpi.govt.nz)

### Background

Myrtle rust (MR) was confirmed in New Zealand in 2017:

- **19 March 2018 – Manawatu**
- 28 November 2017 – Wellington
- 21 November 2017 – Auckland
- 12 June 2017 – Bay of Plenty
- 21 May 2017 – Waikato
- 17 May 2017 – Taranaki
- 3 May 2017 – Northland

### Currently

The number of new finds since 16 March 2018 brings the total number of infected properties to **431**.

**New finds since last update by town/city/suburb – 29 new sites:**

Region	New finds	City/town/suburb	Total finds
Northland	None	NA	4
Auckland	4	Takapuna (1), Epsom (2) and Oteha Valley (1)	66
Waikato	2	Riverlea (1), and Piopio (1)	35
Bay of Plenty	3	Omokoroa (1), Bellevue (1) and Mt Maunganui (1)	93
Taranaki	5	Sentry Hill (1), New Plymouth (2), Vogeltown (1) and Stratford (1)	202
Manawatu	1	Palmerston North (1)	1
Wellington	14	Stokes Valley (13) and Naenae (1)	30

#### Reinfections:

No reinfections since last update **16 March 2018**.

#### Property type:

Nursery (9), public land (17), retailer (1), depot (1), golf course (1), private (369), orchard (1), commercial (24), school (7), public conservation land (1).

#### Plants on which myrtle rust has been detected, and prevalence of the disease, include:

	Count	Total Surveyed	Prevalence
• Ramarama: <i>Lophomyrtus</i> spp.	313	4,572	6.85%*
• Pōhutukawa, Northern rata, Southern rata: <i>Metrosideros</i> spp.	195	30,490	0.64%
• Willow myrtle: <i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	6	370	1.62%
• Monkey apple: <i>Syzygium</i> spp.	109	8,030	1.36%
• Bottle brush: <i>Callistemon</i> spp.	12	6,205	0.19%
• Gum: <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	1	3,666	0.03%
• Mānuka: <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	1	11,649	0.009%
• Feijoa: <i>Acca</i> spp.	3	12,301	0.024%
• Australian Tea Tree: <i>Thyrtomene</i> spp.	1	64	1.563%
• Chilean Guava: <i>Ugni Molinae</i>	2	923	0.217%
• Other	0	10,847	0.000%

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**Total**

**643**

**89,117**

**0.72**

*\*Disclaimer: The count, total surveyed and prevalence data for Lophomyrtus has been updated since the stakeholder update 26 January 2018. There were 2986 infected Lophomyrtus on a single property in West Auckland, which has since been removed to prevent the data being unduly skewed by this one property.*

Prevalence in this case is the percentage of total trees of that type surveyed that were positive for myrtle rust. Please note that the above figures have not been updated since the last stakeholder update on the 16 March 2018.

[List of plants susceptible to myrtle rust](#) [PDF, 550 KB]

## Surveillance

- MPI continues to focus surveillance in the known infected areas where myrtle rust is known to be present, and high risk areas in Northland and the top of the South Island.
- DOC will undertake surveillance in targeted areas on public conservation land in other parts of the country from January to March 2018.

## Tree Removal

Organism management is currently taking place in the regions Manawatu, Waikato and Tauranga.

While removing infected trees is our main tool to manage the response, the persistent nature of this fungal infection has led us to adjust this in certain areas. Where we consider local elimination of an infection isn't feasible we use an approach, working with those involved with the property, to minimise human mediated spread beyond that location rather than remove infected trees. In some cases Auckland and Taranaki infections are now being managed using this approach.

## Planning

Development of long term planning options continues. Planning is underway for a number of meetings with iwi in affected regions.



*Metrosideros* in Taranaki



*Lophomyrtus* in Taranaki



### Identification information

Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust>

Symptoms to look out for on myrtle plants are:

- 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) on older lesions.

Some leaves may become buckled or twisted and die off.

## Advice for specific groups

There is a comprehensive information sheet with information and specific advice for beekeepers, feijoa growers, other orchardists, nursery owners, home gardeners and walkers/ trampers. This document was updated on the 12th of September.

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/18202> [PDF, 141 KB]

### Our advice to those sourcing myrtle species:

MPI RECOMMENDS that all nurseries and suppliers should check and follow the NZPPI website <http://nzppi.co.nz/> for hygiene protocols for plants susceptible to myrtle rust.

## Find out more

### About Myrtle Rust

Myrtle rust web page on the MPI website

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust>

Read more about myrtle rust

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/finding-and-reporting-pests-and-diseases/pest-and-disease-search?article=1484>

Download the myrtle rust fact sheet [PDF, 409 KB]

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3641>

Myrtle rust – DOC website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/myrtlerust>

**Radio interview on Myrtle rust:** Australia's Forest Health and Biosecurity Principle Researcher Dr Angus Carnegie gave an in-depth interview on Radio Live about Myrtle Rust in Australia and how New Zealand has learned from Australia's experiences.

Listen to the interview here: <http://www.radiolive.co.nz/home/articles/weekend-variety-wireless/2018/02/-environews--eight-years-of-myrtle-rust-in-australia.html>

### Videos on YouTube featuring 'Bug Man' Ruud Kleinpaste

- [Myrtle rust explained](#)
- [Help look for myrtle rust](#)



Help Ruud 'the Bug Man' find myrtle rust.



**Do not take any myrtle species out of the Taranaki area**

'Bug man' Ruud Kleinpaste explains myrtle rust and movement controls in Taranaki

## Other information

Protocols for plant producers, production nurseries and garden retailers on managing the risk of myrtle rust can be found on the NZ Plant Producers Incorporated website:

<http://nzppi.co.nz/>

## Communication

**Regular updates are sent on Fridays unless there is other important information to share.**

The next update will be sent out on **Thursday 29 March 2018, as the Friday will be a public holiday.**

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you feel will be interested.

## Information on detection

Remember, early detection is vital to any attempt to control myrtle rust.

Full information including media updates, pictures and a fact sheet is at:

[www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust)

### IF YOU SUSPECT MYRTLE RUST

If you think you've seen myrtle rust on any plants, do NOT touch it. Touching myrtle rust or trying to collect samples will increase the spread of the disease.



CALL the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline immediately on

**0800 80 99 66**



You can also help:



If you have a camera or phone camera, take clear photos, including the whole plant, the whole affected leaf, and a close-up of the spores/affected area of the plant.



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