

# Myrtle Rust

## Garden Retail & Landscape Guidance



**NZPPI has issued protocols for the management of Myrtle Rust within nurseries. These protocols include procedures for surveys and plant protection practices that ensure that nurseries are able to provide confidence that the plants they supply are free from Myrtle Rust.**

### Myrtle Rust Declarations

Nurseries that have implemented the Myrtle Rust Protocols are able to complete a NZPPI Biosecurity Declaration for Myrtle Rust. This declaration is evidence that plants from the nursery have been inspected and protected to ensure that they are clear of myrtle rust. Declarations may accompany delivery documentation and a register of current declarations is available on the NZPPI website.

#### 1 Staff awareness

Share this document, the Myrtle Rust Identification Guide and photos on the 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. Inspect existing stock of Myrtaceae plant family\* held in store.

#### 2 Nursery hygiene assurance

Seek assurances from all nursery suppliers that they have adopted the NZPPI protocols and are registered on the NZPPI Biosecurity Register:

- a) Nursery Management Protocol, including preventative fungicide treatments
- b) Plant Survey Protocol
- c) Plant Transport Protocol and Plant Transport Declaration (is used by their own drivers or their third-party carrier)
- d) And that they sterilize their pallets, trolleys, frames and other shipping containers. New plant cartons do not have to be treated.

#### 3 Crop aggregation

Consolidate all myrtaceous plant species within defined areas and away from native or landscape planted myrtaceous plant species.

#### 4 Plant Inspection schedule

Periodically (weekly) survey myrtaceous species on-site, or along property boundaries, roads etc. If you find nothing suspicious, begin or continue preventative treatment with one of the recommended fungicides (see #5).

#### 5 Preventative fungicide programme

Implement a fortnightly fungicide treatment programme across all myrtaceous plants you hold in stock. (see "Myrtle Rust Fungicide Treatments" at [nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity](https://nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity)).



Protocols and guidance for the procedures referred to in this document can be found on the NZPPI website: [nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity](http://nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity)

- Nursery Management Protocol
- Biosecurity Declaration
- Plant Survey Protocol
- Fungicide Treatments List
- Plant Transport Protocol
- Plant Transport Declaration
- Myrtle Rust Identification Guide

## 6 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.

## 7 Remove waste material

Dispose of all waste plant material from garden centre via bulk waste, composting or deep burial.

## 8 Personal hygiene

Have staff wash hands before commencing work at the start of the day, and after breaks using a hand sanitation product.

## 9 Disinfect 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.

## 10 Dealing with the public

Prepare staff for questions from the public – see key messages at [nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity](http://nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity), the articles at [gogardening.co.nz](http://gogardening.co.nz) and the MPI and DOC websites - [mpi.govt.nz](http://mpi.govt.nz) and [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz).

## 11 Garden Chemicals

Few home garden chemicals are registered for rust diseases. Those that are include:

- Myclobutanil – available as Yates Fungus Fighter; Yates Super Shield; Kiwicare Spectrum; Combat.
- Azoxystrobin – available as Kiwicare Rose Force.

## If Myrtle Rust is detected in store:



Do not attempt to touch or collect samples as this may increase the spread of this disease.



Take photos of the suspected myrtle rust and the whole plant.



Do not move the plants from the site or your truck.



If possible, isolate the plants with a plastic cover.



Call MPI's exotic pests and diseases hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

\*All references in this document to "Myrtaceous species" exclude feijoa, which MPI no longer considers as host material.

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