

# Myrtle Rust

## Nursery Management Protocol



The following strategies should be applied (where possible) across all businesses growing and/or selling myrtle rust host material (Myrtaceous species excluding feijoa).

### 1 Staff awareness

Share this document, and 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

If you grow Myrtaceae species\*, adopt the NZPPI protocols and guidance as described below.

### 3 Crop aggregation

Aggregate all myrtaceous plant species within defined areas of the nursery and away from native or landscape planted myrtaceous plant species.

### 4 Biosecurity Declaration

Complete the NZPPI Biosecurity Declaration for Myrtle Rust document, or check the status of the supplying nursery on the NZPPI Biosecurity register on the NZPPI website - [nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity](http://nzppi.org.nz/biosecurity)

### 5 Arrival inspection

Inspect plant stock upon arrival and before transferring them into the nursery area.

- i. Inspect the tops and bottoms of leaves/stems/buds/fruit looking for any direct evidence of the disease.
- ii. Inspect the entire above-ground area of the plants.
- iii. With larger plants, select leaves from all parts of the plant (upper, middle, lower) and examine them individually.

### 6 Crop inspection schedule

Periodically (not more than 14 days) survey myrtaceous species on-site, and along property boundaries, roads etc. Pay attention to plants located upwind based on the most common prevailing wind direction of the season.

### 7 Preventative fungicide programme

From spring to late autumn (October to May) - apply myrtle rust fungicide treatments at fortnightly intervals, or otherwise following label recommendations.

Over winter (June to September) - apply myrtle rust fungicide treatments at monthly intervals, or otherwise following label recommendations. When using fungicides on a regular basis, ensure a suitable fungicide rotation system is in place to prevent resistance development to a particular group of fungicides. Refer to the NZPPI Myrtle Rust Plant Protection programme (ref).

### 8 Treat growing areas between crops

Treat the growing area with a disinfectant (e.g. copper) upon the completion of the crop growing cycle before placing a new crop down on the production bed or bench.

### 9 Record keeping

Plant protection applications, including fungicides and sanitizers, are to be recorded in a spray diary, or similar recording system.

## 10 Nursery dispatch inspections

Inspect and ensure all myrtaceous species are covered by a current fungicide treatment program prior to dispatch.

## 11 Sterilize shipping containers

Sterilize pallets, trolleys, frames and other shipping containers with Virkon S or equivalent. New cardboard cartons do not need to be treated.

## 12 Care in transporting plants

Adopt NZPPI's Plant Transport Protocol to manage the risk of your truck or that of a third-party carrier you use spreading myrtle rust.

## 13 Restrict access

Allow access to your production areas only to vehicles equipment and people essential for nursery operations.

## 14 Remove waste material

Dispose of all extraneous vegetative plant material from nursery via bulk waste, composting or deep burial.

## 15 Personal hygiene

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

## 16 Disinfect nursery propagation area

Regularly disinfect propagation surfaces throughout the day at various points such as upon returning from a break, a change of species or batch.

## 17 Disinfect all tools and equipment

Regularly disinfect all items that can be surface wiped or dipped in disinfectant solutions using a recognised industry disinfectant such as Virkon S (or equivalent), or a combination of 70% Methylated Spirits and 30% water or a quaternary ammonium compound.



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

## If you find anything suspicious



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



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



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



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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