

Myrtle rust - have you seen it?

The fungus *Uredo rangellii* (myrtle rust) has been detected on two commercial properties on the New South Wales central coast. Myrtle rust is considered to be part of a group of rust fungi collectively known as eucalyptus/guava rust.

Early identification of this rust is vital for effective management.

Host species

In Australia, myrtle rust has recently been detected on *Agonis* (willow myrtle), *Syncarpia* (turpentine) and *Callistemon* (bottlebrush) species.

Internationally, there are unconfirmed reports of infection on some *Eucalyptus* species. It has also been confirmed on *Myrtus*, *Syzygium* and *Heteropyxis* species overseas.

To date, it has not been confirmed on Australian eucalypts.

Spread

Rusts are highly transportable. The most common dispersal mechanism is via wind but they may also attract bees who work the spores on leaves.

The spores can also be spread via contaminated clothing, infected plant material and insect movement.

Identification

Myrtle rust produces lesions on young, actively growing leaves and shoots, as well as on fruits and sepals. Leaves may become buckled or twisted as a result of infection.

On turpentine and bottlebrush, rust lesions are purple in colour, with masses of bright yellow or orange-yellow spores. Occasionally, they may have dark brown spores.

Severe rust disease in young trees may kill shoot tips, causing loss of leaders and a bushy habit.

See overleaf for images of symptoms.

Reporting

Any rust noticed on Myrtaceae species should be reported.

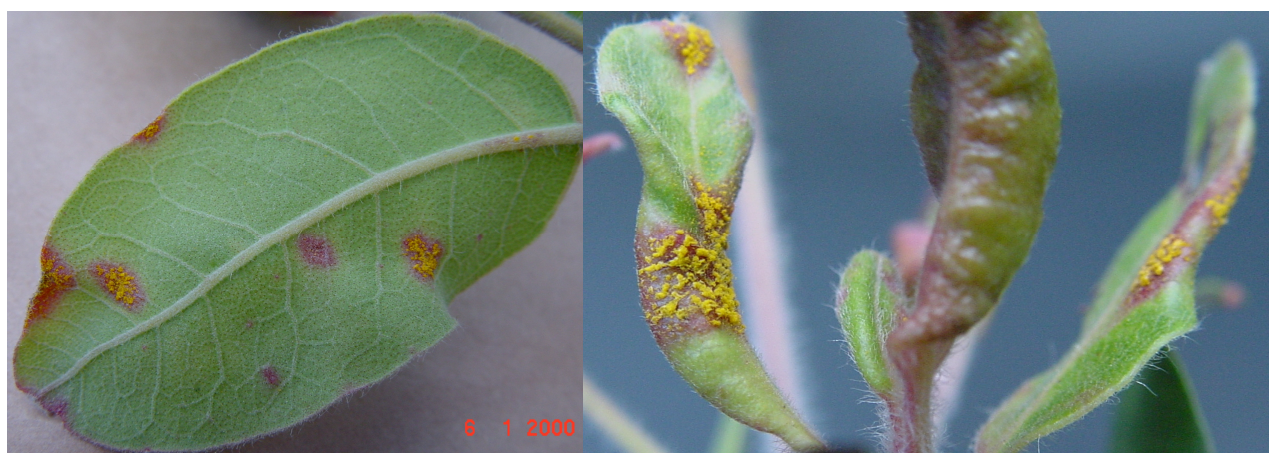
Please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on
Freecall **1800 084 881**

Symptoms of myrtle rust

- *Uredo rangelii* on willow myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*)



- *Uredo rangelii* on turpentine



Images courtesy of Industry & Investment NSW

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