



## Look out for Myrtle Rust

Myrtle rust is a highly invasive fungal disease of plants in the Myrtaceae family – including peppermint trees, Geraldton wax, eucalypts, melaleucas, bottle brushes and lilly pilli.

The disease is widespread along the east coast of Australia from southern NSW to far north Queensland and into the Northern Territory. It was recently detected in the east Kimberley, and monitoring efforts aim to identify new infection in other parts of the state before it can become endemic.

It is mostly spread by wind, but the spores can also be spread by infected plant material, contaminated equipment, clothing and vehicles. Therefore, anyone seeing indicative lesions on plants shouldn't touch the plant, but instead should take photos and establish a precise location.

Signs of the disease include masses of bright yellow or orange-yellow spores on plant foliage; lesions on actively growing foliage, floral buds and young fruit; and buckled or twisted leaves. For bottlebrush plant species, the lesions will be purple in colour and the spores dark brown.

Check out [www.agric.wa.gov.au/myrtlerust](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/myrtlerust) and [www.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/threat-management/plant-diseases/myrtle-rust](http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/threat-management/plant-diseases/myrtle-rust) for a variety of pictures of the typical appearance of Myrtle rust on plants.



You should report any suspected evidence of Myrtle Rust directly to DPIRD. Use their Pest and Disease Information Service (9368 3080), their MyPestGuide Reporter app (available on both Google Play and Apple iTunes stores), or by email to [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au).

To prevent spread, the principle is - Arrive Clean, Leave Clean!...

- Ensure items are free of mud, soil and organic matter before entering and exiting bushland
- Stay on roads and trails as much as possible
- Spread is limited by shaking out floor mats, washing down tyres and checking that vehicles, trailers and any equipment contain no plant material. This is done before leaving an infected area and again before entering areas that could be infected.
- Clothing and footwear worn in infected areas should be disinfected and washed if possible