

# ENVIRO ALERT



**TITLE:** Myrtle Rust

**Number:** 01

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## Background

- Spring is the most active season for myrtle rust.
- This disease seriously threatens thousands of species of our unique flora in the myrtle family – this includes eucalypts, bottlebrush and the WA peppermint tree.
- This is the only disease that causes bright yellow/orange spores in the myrtle family
- Spores may start out purple and are often found on the underside of leaves or affect growing tips.
- The fungal spores are airborne and easily spread on items of clothing
- Myrtle rust has been spreading throughout the eastern states since 2010.
- Awareness is critical in preventing this serious disease taking hold in WA.

## Steps to take if you suspect myrtle rust

- DO NOT take a sample as you could spread the highly transmissible spores
- DO take photos and precise details about the location
- Report immediately to the FPC Authorised Officer who in turn will:
  - Notify FPC Manager Technical Support or Manager Forest Management
  - Notify DPIRD Exotic Plant Pest Helpline on **1800 084 881** and/or enter information into [MyPestGuide Reporter App](#)
  - Complete an incident report - FPC80 Part A

## Further information

[Agriculture and Food – Myrtle Rust: a threat to Western Australia](#)

[Parks and Wildlife – Myrtle Rust](#)

[Plant Health Australia – Myrtle Rust](#)

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