

ENVIRO ALERT



TITLE: Myrtle Rust detected in the East Kimberley



Photo credit L. Shuey QDAF

Background

Myrtle Rust has now been confirmed on a remote property in the East Kimberley, near the Northern Territory border. This is the first record of this potentially destructive pest in WA.

- Myrtle rust is a highly invasive fungal disease of Myrtaceae plants including eucalypts, peppermint trees, Geraldton wax, melaleucas, bottlebrushes and lilly pilly.
- The most obvious sign of the disease is the masses of bright yellow or orange-yellow spores on young/actively growing leaves, stems, flower buds/flowers and fruit.
- As the disease progresses the spores darken, purple lesions form on infected tissues and new shoots can have a buckled and burnt appearance.
- The disease is spread mostly via wind, but the spores can also be spread via infected plant material, contaminated equipment, clothing and vehicles.

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 (GPS if possible)
- Notify **Pest and Disease Information Service** on **9368 3080** and/or enter information into the **MyPestGuide Reporter App**
- Notify **FPC Manager Technical Support** or **Manager Forest Management**

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- Complete an incident report - **FPC80 Part A**
- If possible, change into fresh clothing and footwear and pack away and launder any items used in the location of the suspected myrtle rust
- If travelling by road, shake out floor mats, wash down tyres and check the vehicle contains no plant material.

Further information

www.agric.wa.gov.au/myrtlerust

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