



# Biosecurity alert: Myrtle rust



Myrtle rust  
(*Austropuccinia psidii*)

## What to look for and how to reduce the spread

Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is an introduced and highly invasive fungal disease of Myrtaceae plants, including peppermint trees, Geraldton wax, eucalypts, melaleuca, bottlebrushes and lilly pilly.

To stop the spread of myrtle rust in WA, we are asking everyone to be vigilant and keep an eye out for symptoms of this exotic disease.

### **Don't touch myrtle rust, report it!**

If you suspect plant material is showing symptoms of myrtle rust do not touch it or collect samples. Take clear photos of the whole plant, affected area and lesions and report it.



## What to look for



Raised brown-grey spots with red-purple haloes (early infection).



Bright yellow powdery eruptions appearing on the underside (young infection) or both sides (mature infection) of the leaf.



Dull yellow-brown rust pustules (older spores) on older lesions.



In older infections leaves may become buckled and twisted.

## How to prevent spread

Myrtle rust spores are abundant and spread mostly via wind, but they can also be spread via infected plant material, contaminated equipment, vehicles and clothing – even skin and hair.

Any activity in natural areas has the potential to spread myrtle rust, including bushwalking, cycling, weeding, revegetation, and camping.

### Arrive clean, leave clean!

- Ensure items are free of mud, soil and organic matter before entering and exiting bushland.
- Use wash-down and boot cleaning stations if available.
- Wash and disinfect all items on your return home.
- Always stay on roads and trails.



### Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter  
via app or online  
[mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

Pest and Disease Information Service  
(08) 9368 3080  
[padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

