Myrtle Rust- Disease Symptom Identification Guide

Myrtle rust only infects Myrtaceae plants
- Rust pathogens that infect non-Myrtaceae plants are not myrtle rust.
- There are no other rust pathogens on Myrtaceae plants in New Zealand.
- Myrtle rust (Austropuccinia psidii) is also known as guava rust and eucalyptus rust. Myrtle rust only affects plants in the myrtle family. The Myrtle family (family Myrtaceae) includes:
  - Manauka
  - Kanuka
  - Rata
  - Pahutakawa
  - Bottle brush
  - Gum trees (Eucalypts)
  - Tea tree
  - Guava
  - Feijoa
  - Lilly pilly
  - Juniper myrtle
  - Many others

Symptoms
- Myrtle rust mainly affects young actively growing leaves, shoots, epicormics, flowers, and fruit.
- Typical symptoms on a susceptible plant host are the distinctive bright yellow/orange rust pustules on purple, brown, or grey lesions.
- Leaves may become buckled or twisted, necrotic and finally drop from the stem.
- See photos over.

What to do if you suspect Myrtle Rust
MPI Advice: If you think you’ve seen the symptoms of myrtle rust, do not touch it. Call the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline immediately on 0800 80 99 66. If you have a camera or phone camera, take clear photos, including the whole plant, the whole affected leaf, and a close-up of the spores/affected area of the plant. But don’t touch it or try to collect samples as this may increase the spread of the disease.

Prevention
Based on Australian, Hawaiian and Brazilian work, MPI have included azoxystrobin as being effective against myrtle rust infections. Azoxystrobin is systemic, slightly curative and protectant.
- Apply Kiwicare PLANThealth Rose Force at 14-21 day intervals to susceptible plants.
- Kiwicare PLANThealth Thiram Fungus Control is also likely to be protectant against Myrtle rust.
Myrtle rust symptoms on Myrtaceae plants


Myrtaceae plants with symptoms that are NOT caused by myrtle rust

David Brittain 1/06/2017
Non-Myrtaceae plants with symptoms that are similar to those caused by myrtle rust

11 Oxalis rust
12 Apricot rust
13 Rose rust
14 Snow thistle rust
15 Spring onion rust
16 Gladiolus rust
17 Rust on English daisy
18 Aphids on leaves
19 Algae on leaves