



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

Myrtle Rust

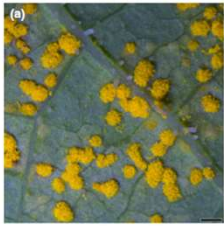
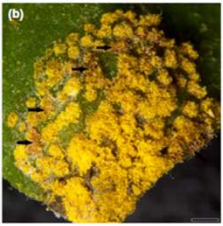
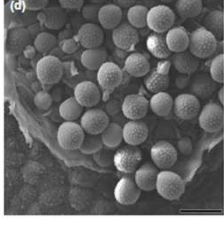
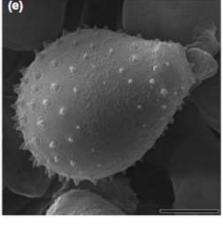
Still dodging the bullet!



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WHAT IS MYRTLE RUST?

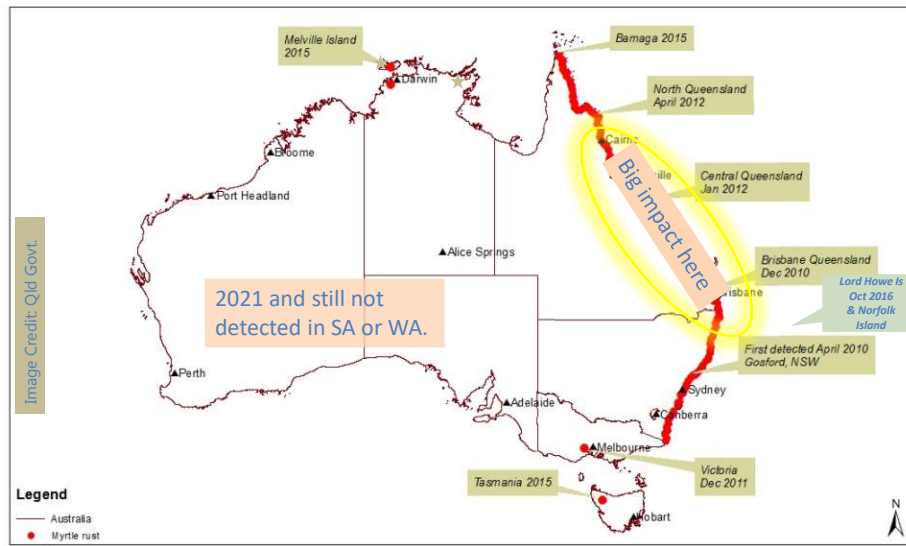
- rust fungus
Austropuccinia psidii
- South American origin
- air-borne spores
- detected in Australia for
the first time in 2010

Photos: Dr Geoff Pegg

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WHERE IS IT IN AUSTRALIA?



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CRYING WOLF?

These annual warnings about Myrtle rust and still no sign of it.....are we crying wolf?

Maybe....but a biosecurity colleague from DPIRD told me that when WA gets a new pest/pathogen it takes about 4 years for it to reach the eastern seaboard. When the east gets a new pest/pathogen it takes about 10 years before it turns up in WA.

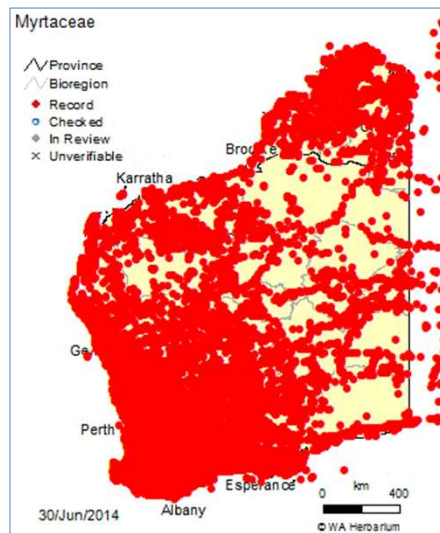
Myrtle rust arrived on the eastern seaboard just over 10 years ago.



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WHY THE CONCERN FOR WA?



- Myrtle rust attacks plants from the Myrtaceae family
- WA is home to over 1,800 species of Myrtaceae



Photo: Richard Watson

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Map: Florabase

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CAN IT BE ERADICATED?

It would depend on early detection and the incursion being very localised

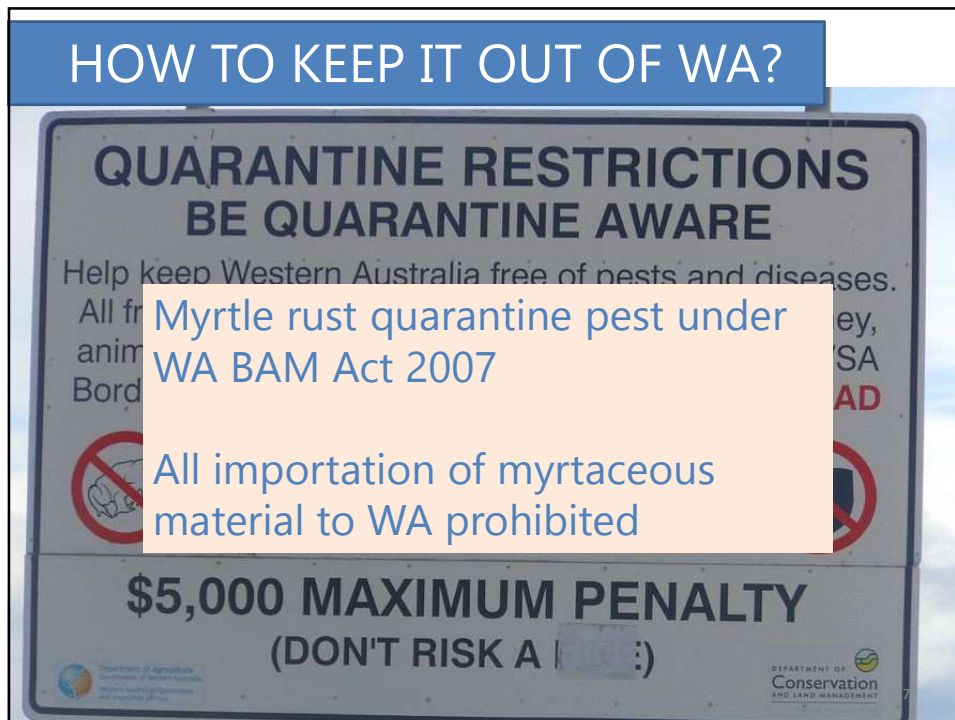


Photos: Dr Bob Makinson
Attempting to eradicate Myrtle rust in NSW

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HOW TO KEEP IT OUT OF WA?



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HOW TO KEEP IT OUT OF WA?



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BIOSECURITY QLD RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations were written for firefighters to reduce risk of spreading Myrtle rust and other pestsbut all of us can apply these principles !

1. Make sure that any **bags** you have been using, particularly on the fire line, are clean and free of any plant life e.g. seeds and animal life, insects and insect eggs. A visual inspection inside and out is required. Wipe off any obvious dirt with a disinfectant cloth or alcohol wipes.
2. Make sure that **personal protective equipment (PPE)** you have been wearing on the fire line is free of dirt, plant and animal life. Where possible, wash used PPE in water and detergent of at least 40 degrees. If you are not able to do this, shake out clothing thoroughly and wipe off obvious dirt and mud.
3. If possible, wash any **clothes** you have been wearing in rural areas or on the fire line in water of at least 40 degrees. If you do not have the opportunity to do this, ensure clothing is free of plant and insect material and obvious dirt.
4. **Boots and washable equipment** should be washed down with water and detergent and any mud should be removed. Visually inspect the soles of boots to look for dirt, plants and animal life.
5. **Other equipment** such as hats, backpacks, gaiters, cameras and their cases, GPS units, sunglasses etc that cannot be washed should be inspected, shaken out before departure and wiped down with a disinfectant cloth or alcohol wipes to ensure clean of clear of seeds and soil.
6. **Personnel** who have worked in these areas should shower and change into clean clothes and footwear before returning home.

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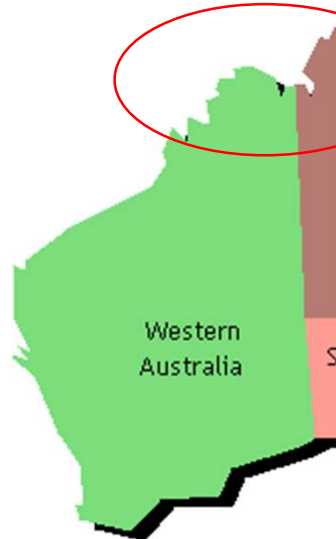
HOW TO KEEP IT OUT OF WA?



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SUSCEPTIBLE PLANTS (NORTH)



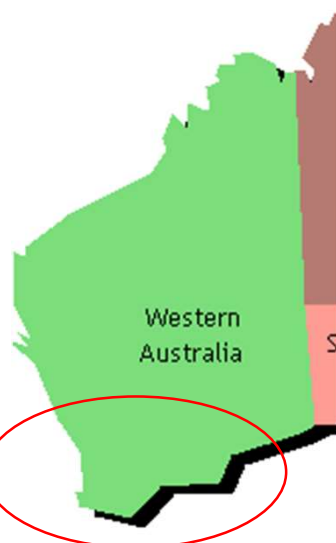
Eugenia reinwardtiana
Leptospermum madidum
Lithomyrtus retusa
Melaleuca leucadendra
Melaleuca nervosa
Melaleuca viridiflora
Syzygium armstrongii
Syzygium angophoroides
Syzygium eucalyptoides

These are only the species that we currently know to be susceptible – there are likely to be many more

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SUSCEPTIBLE PLANTS (SOUTH-WEST)



Extremely susceptible

Agonis flexuosa
Beaufortia schaueri
Beaufortia sparsa
Chamelaucium uncinatum
Darwinia citriodora

Susceptible

Calothamnus quadrifidus
Eremaea asterocarpa
Eucalyptus/Corymbia : karri, tuart, jarrah, wandoo, red flowering gum
Hypocalymma angustifolium
Leptospermum rotunifolium
Regelia ciliata
Thryptomene saxicola

These are only the species that we currently know to be susceptible – there are likely to be many more

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HOW TO RECOGNISE MYRTLE RUST?

'Nothing else causes bright yellow (rarely yellow-orange) masses of spores on myrtaceous plants like Myrtle rust'

Bob Makinson
RBGDT, NSW

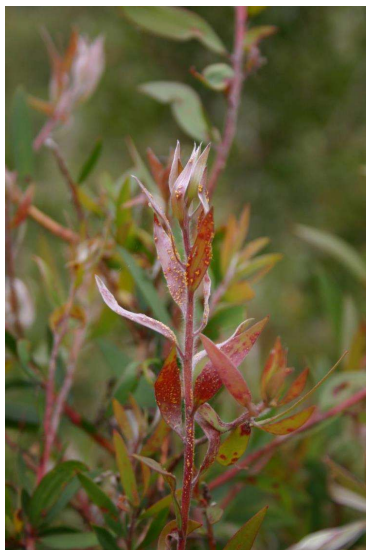


Photo: Dr Louise Morin

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HOW TO RECOGNISE MYRTLE RUST?



Photos: Dr Geoff Pegg



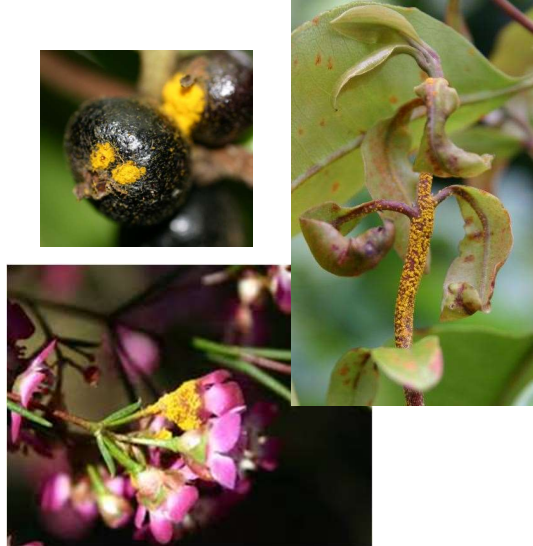
First signs raised spots that are brown to grey, often with red-purple haloes. In the next 2 weeks spores will appear

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HOW TO RECOGNISE MYRTLE RUST?

Attacks young, soft, actively growing leaves, shoot tips and young stems, as well as fruits and flower



Photos: Dr Geoff Pegg & Dr Louise Morin

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HOW TO RECOGNISE MYRTLE RUST?

The underside of the leaf is often the preferred location for spores

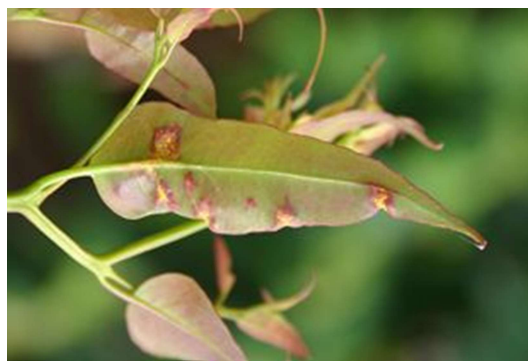


Photo: Dr Geoff Pegg

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PLEASE HELP WITH SURVEILLANCE

**Early detection and reporting
may prevent or reduce the
long-term impact to WA of a
Myrtle rust incursion!**

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IF YOU THINK YOU SEE IT?

1. **Do not** take a sample or touch it because the spores can be easily spread
2. **Do** take photos and precise details about the of location
3. **Do** immediately report your sighting to DPIRD Pest and Disease Information Service (PADIS) on 9368 3080¹ and email photos/location to padis@dpird.wa.gov.au or....



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