

Myrtle rust

- preventing the spread in bushland

The bushland you visit could be infected with myrtle rust without you knowing it. Before entering such areas for work or recreation, you should consider the risk of your activity spreading the rust and how to minimise this risk using the measures outlined below.

Arrive clean, leave clean

Vehicles

Ensure your vehicle is clean before entering a bushland area, to reduce the chances that your car will carry the spores into bushland.

Where possible, leave vehicles in a designated car park and don't allow host plants to come in direct contact with the vehicle. If possible, limit the number of vehicles entering the bushland area.

Vehicles (including trailers, trucks and skips) that have been in contact with myrtaceous plants should be washed thoroughly before going to a new bushland site.

People

If possible, limit the number of sites you visit to one per day.

Change into clean clothes, including hats, gloves and footwear, before moving to another bushland site.

Clothing, footwear and personal effects

After visiting bushland, wash clothes, hats and gloves before wearing them in another bushland site or garden. Work groups should consider having a designated area where all clothing and equipment can be cleaned.

To clean footwear, remove soil, leaves and mud, and then wash using water and detergent or a disinfectant.

Wipe down any other personal effects with water and detergent or a disinfectant cloth.

Place personal rubbish in a bag and seal it. Wipe down the outside of the sealed bag before removing it from the site.

Keep to tracks

When driving through bushland areas, try to stick to allocated roadways and tracks to minimise contact between vehicles and myrtaceous plants.

When hiking or bushwalking, stay on pathways wherever they are available.

Pack light

Minimise the number of items you bring to the site to reduce the opportunity to spread myrtle rust.

If possible, clean camping and hiking equipment when moving between sites or when you arrive home. Work equipment such as secateurs, shovels and chainsaws should also be cleaned when moving between sites. Remove soil, leaves and mud, then clean with water and detergent. For ease of cleaning, use equipment that is in good condition and does not have wooden or cracked handles.

Wipe electronic items, such as mobile phones and GPS units with a disinfectant cloth.

Be aware

People who visit bushland must be aware of what myrtle rust looks like and the plants that it can affect.

Avoid parking or camping close to plants that might be a host for myrtle rust.

Don't move plants

A plant may be infected with myrtle rust before it shows visible signs of the disease. Don't move plants or plant cuttings into or out of bushland areas.



Myrtle rust spores can easily be transferred to clothing.

Report suspected myrtle rust

Report any suspected detection on a Myrtaceae plant species to DPI on **1800 084 881**.

Alternatively, you can take electronic photos of the suspect material and email to plant.protection@dpi.vic.gov.au, together with a contact phone number and the plant's location.

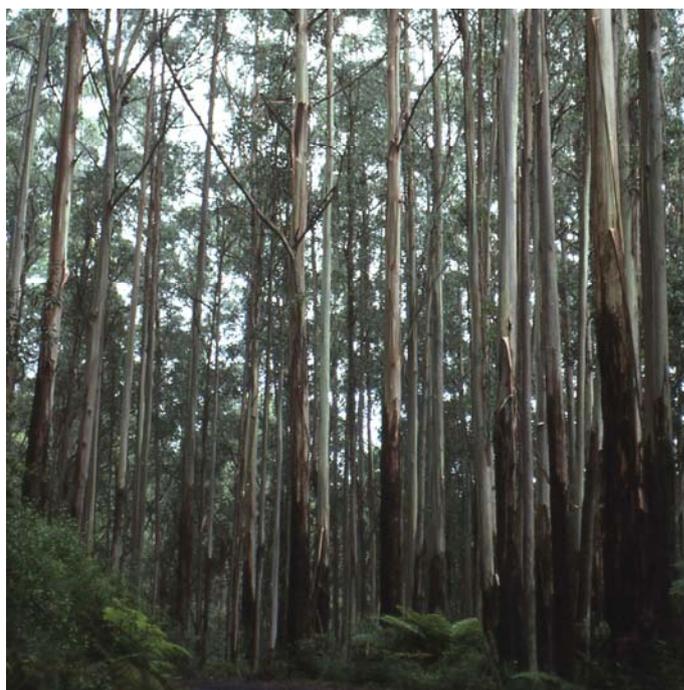
If you suspect you have found myrtle rust, do not touch the infected plant material or collect samples, as this could spread the disease.

Suspected rusts on **non-Myrtaceae** species should **not** be reported via this number or email address.

Some potential hosts of myrtle rust



Lilly pilly



Mountain ash



Tea tree



Bottlebrush

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on: 136 186, TTY: 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au

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Further information

More myrtle rust images and updates can be found at:

- www.dpi.vic.gov.au/myrtlerust
- www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity
- www.dpi.qld.gov.au
- www.outbreak.gov.au

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