

# Handling suspected myrtle rust samples

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) publicity regarding the myrtle rust outbreak has advised the public **not to touch** suspected infected material, but to contact DPI by telephone or email.

## If your office receives a phone call reporting suspected myrtle rust:

Please remind the caller not to touch the sample (as this could spread the disease) and advise them to contact DPI on **1800 084 881** or email **plant.protection@dpi.vic.gov.au** and provide a contact number, the plant's location and (if possible) an electronic photograph.

## If suspected myrtle rust samples are brought to your office:

Please remind the visitor that they **should not touch** plants suspected of myrtle rust infection, since this could spread the disease.

**However, to ensure the presented sample does not spread the disease, please treat it as follows:**

1. Make sure the sample is placed in a plastic bag (preferably clear plastic) and sealed.
2. Place the sealed bag in a second plastic bag.
3. Ask the person who brought the sample for:
  - their name
  - a contact phone number
  - the suspect plant's type (e.g. tea tree) and location (i.e. street address).Record this information, place a copy in the second bag and seal the bag.
4. Email **plant.protection@dpi.vic.gov.au** and provide:
  - the recorded information
  - the location of your office and a contact number.DPI will arrange to pick up the sample or advise if the sample can be discarded.
5. Please ensure that appropriate office staff are aware of the sample and where it is.

### Please note:

Myrtle rust is not a risk to human or animal health. However, anyone who has handled the sample should wash their hands with soap and water (or hand sanitiser, if available) to reduce the risk of spreading the disease.

## Further information

For more information about myrtle rust, visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/myrtlerust](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/myrtlerust)

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](mailto:customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au)

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