



Myrtle rust could explode this summer.

**See it, report it,
don't touch it.**



What you need to know this summer.

Myrtle rust is a fungus that can destroy our native and taonga trees such as pōhutukawa and ramarama. It thrives in summer, making it easier to spot. Help us track myrtle rust, and control the spread. If you see it, **DO NOT TOUCH OR DISTURB THE PLANT**. Take photos and call us immediately on 0800 80 99 66.

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Visit mpi.govt.nz/myrtlerust

UNDERSTANDING MYRTLE RUST

What we know so far

Myrtle rust is difficult to prevent or treat, and there is currently no known treatment to kill it once infection sets in.

The most significant impact has been on ramarama and pōhutukawa. We are uncertain how myrtle rust affects other plants and trees.

Dealing with myrtle rust

Some fungicides might prevent infection but there are significant factors to consider:

- once a preventative course is started it requires continuous treatment
- the chemicals used are not environmentally friendly and cannot be used near fruit or vegetable plants
- the fungicide MPI uses is not commercially available.

MPI recommends gardeners seek advice from their local garden centre on the best approach for their individual garden.

The good news

In some cases, removing affected plants can be the best course of action, particularly if there are other significant plants or trees in the vicinity that you want to protect.

Many locations and plants may not be seriously affected, if at all. Myrtle rust requires quite specific environmental conditions to thrive.

To find out more, including what to look out for, visit:
www.mpi.govt.nz/myrtlerust