

***Uredo rangelii* Myrtle Rust**

Prepared by Helen Worrall, July 2012

The recent wet weather has seen some plants in the garden become infected with rust diseases.

One rust which we should keep a close look out for is Myrtle Rust *Uredo rangelii*, this fungus has spread along the eastern seaboard of NSW from the far south coast to the Queensland border.



Photograph courtesy of Department of Primary Industries

Sadly many Australian native plants are affected by this rust including species of Eucalyptus and Melaleuca along with lesser known species such as *Austromyrtus* and *Backhousia* of which we have a few plants in the garden.

The rust is identified by purple lesions with masses of bright yellow or orange spores which occur on young actively growing leaves, stems, fruits and sepals. The leaves may become twisted and distorted as a result of this infection.

The latest advice is **not to handle or move the plant.**

If you see any of the following symptoms please on a plant please report them to a team leader. If the plant is in your garden, take a photo and take this to your local nursery for identification or contact relevant Department of Primary Industries.

Early identification of the rust is vital to eradication efforts so please keep a sharp look out.

Further Information:

Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry

Myrtle Rust - NSW Department Primary Industries
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust>

Any Rust on Mrytaceae should be reported to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881