


Myrtle Rust Stakeholder Update – 29 May 2017 5:00pm

<p>For information about this update, contact MR2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz</p>	<p>This update includes key information from the daily situation reports (SITREPs) from both MPI and DOC. Blue text below indicates new information (based on 26 May update).</p>
<p>Background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myrtle Rust was confirmed in New Zealand (in a Kerikeri plant nursery) on 3 May 2017. • Myrtle Rust was confirmed in New Plymouth on 17 May.
<p>Situation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there are 26 confirmed sites where Myrtle Rust has been found; two sites in Kerikeri, 21 sites in New Plymouth, one site in Taheke region, and two sites in Te Kuiti (three more finds in Taranaki since Friday). • The affected sites are a mix of nurseries, private properties, distributors/retailers, a garden centre and an orchard. • The list of confirmed infected plants now includes Pōhutukawa (<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>), <i>Metrosideros</i> sp., Eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.) and Ramarama (<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>) in Northland; Myrtle (<i>Lophomyrtus</i> sp.), <i>Metrosideros</i> sp., Ramarama (<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>), Pōhutukawa (<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>), Mānuka (<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>) and Monkey Apple (<i>Syzygium smithii</i>) in Taranaki; and Pōhutukawa (<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>) in Waikato. • Discussion on compensation was held in Kerikeri today. A similar meeting is being held with affected nursery owners in New Plymouth on 30 May.
<p>Incident Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based in Wellington, MPI is acting as the lead agency for the response with support from other central and local government agencies, industry and tangata whenua. • Local coordination is based at the DOC Bay of Islands office in Kerikeri; in New Plymouth, local coordination has been set up at the Taranaki Emergency Management Office, 45 Robe St New Plymouth (including Waikato operations). • The MPI response team is establishing a compensation team, to ensure that people and businesses affected by MPI's use of Biosecurity Act powers understand when they are eligible to be compensated for financial losses and how to apply for compensation from MPI.
<p>Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of potentially affected plants from Kerikeri has been completed. • Staff from MPI, DOC and the Northland, Taranaki and Waikato local and regional councils continue to carry out surveillance around confirmed properties, set up controls and apply fungicide treatment. • In Kerikeri, activities continue to focus on returning the two infected sites back to business.
<p>Intelligence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have any questions about the response, you can contact MPI at the following email address: MR2017_Intel@mpi.govt.nz.
<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of long term planning options continues. • To secure the long term future of taonga Myrtaceae species, seed collection work is in progress involving manawhenua, to conserve the biodiversity of native Myrtaceae in New Zealand. As a result DOC is leading the collection of seed for seed banking.

<p>Information for Gardeners and Arbor Day planting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check any Myrtaceae plants on your property for symptoms of Myrtle Rust. • Avoid planting any species susceptible to Myrtle Rust, particularly in the Northland, Taranaki and Waikato regions. List of plants susceptible to Myrtle Rust [PDF, 550 KB] • If you suspect Myrtle Rust, please take a photo and report to MPI (0800 80 99 66) and don't move any plants, produce or gardening equipment offsite until you hear back from MPI.  <p><i>Image: Infected Metrosideros sp. from Taranaki</i></p>
<p>Find out more</p>	<p>Read the latest updates about Myrtle Rust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myrtle Rust web page on the MPI website • Read more about Myrtle Rust • Download the Myrtle Rust fact sheet [PDF, 409 KB] • Myrtle Rust – DOC website <p>Advice for specific groups Refer to our information sheet for specific advice for beekeepers, feijoa growers, other orchardists, nursery owners and home gardeners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sheet [PDF, 141 KB]
<p>Other information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone seeking support or advice as a result of the Myrtle Rust Response can contact the Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254. • Protocols for plant producers, production nurseries and garden retailers on managing the risk of Myrtle Rust can be found on the NZ Plant Producers Incorporated website: http://nzppi.co.nz/ • Partners and stakeholders entering native forests are reminded to ensure they are keeping up hygiene protocols for Kauri dieback disease. These protocols can be found on the Kauri Dieback website: http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/prevention
<p>Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next update will be sent out on Tuesday 30 May. • Please feel free to share this information with anyone you feel will be interested.

Remember, early detection is vital to any attempt to control myrtle rust.
Full information including media updates, pictures and a fact sheet is at:
www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust.

If you believe you have seen myrtle rust on plants in New Zealand:

- Take a clear photo of symptoms and the host plant if possible
- Immediately call MPI on 0800 80 99 66
- Do not attempt to touch the plant as this may aid in the spread of the disease.