

Myrtle Rust Tangata Whenua Update - 17 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. Light blue text below indicates new information (based on 16 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.
<p>Situation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately the “suspect” find from yesterday has been definitely confirmed as myrtle rust and more importantly, the find is located a long way from Kerikeri – in New Plymouth. • Refer to MPI's media release today at: http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/myrtle-rust-appears-in-taranaki/ • No links are known, at present, between the nurseries in and Kerikeri and New Plymouth; this infection is possibly independent of the Kerikeri event. • There is no change to the situation in Kerikeri but surveillance work continues. • Staff from MPI, DoC and the Taranaki local and regional councils are working on the establishment of a new Response coordination centre in the New Plymouth area. Surveillance and tracing work is well underway and networks with many local organisations are being set up.
<p>Incident Control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPI is acting as the lead agency for the response with support from other central and local government agencies, industry and tangata whenua. • National Coordination Centre is based at MPI Wellington. • Local coordination is based at the DoC Bay of Islands office in Kerikeri.
<p>Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although work is continuing on the ground in the Kerikeri area, a new operations centre has been established in New Plymouth. • Destruction of the potentially affected plants has commenced at the 2 Kerikeri sites. • MPI, DOC, industry groups and the Northland Regional Council, are continuing to re-inspect the area in a radius 500m from the nursery where the fungus was first found. • MPI and DOC staff attended local farmers markets in Kerikeri last weekend to raise awareness about Myrtle Rust amongst stallholders and the public. • All nurseries that received potentially suspect plants from the original Kerikeri nursery have been inspected, with no signs of Myrtle Rust seen.
<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 • A Better Border Biosecurity (B3) workshop on Myrtle Rust was held in Christchurch on Monday 15 May looking at current knowledge and gap analysis for research.
<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another spell of bad weather is due to arrive..... • Planning is underway to get MPI and other support people available for the two weekend markets in New Plymouth. • Development of long term planning options continues. • Seed collection work is in progress with plans to include manawhenua.

Information for Bee Keepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our best information tells us that transmission of any spores out of the hive is considered unlikely and low risk. • At this time we do not know how myrtle rust will behave in New Zealand conditions and what any impact would be on Manuka. • From the Australian experience, we do know that bees can transfer myrtle rust spores from plant to plant. • MPI is appealing to beekeepers not move their beehives if possible, while we gather further information. • At this time there is no need for any destruction of hives.
Hui to brief Te Tai Tokerau Iwi/Hapu, Environmental Resource Managers and Technicians - Wednesday, 17 May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Turi Whakamataki, the National Maori Biosecurity Network, will facilitate a hui to brief Te Tai Tokerau Iwi/Hapu, Environmental Resource Managers and Technicians about the Myrtle Rust response. DOC and MPI have also been invited to present at this meeting from 6pm. • Date: Wednesday, 17 May 2017 • Time: 5:00-6.00pm Iwi and hapu; 6:00-7:00pm DOC and MPI inclusion • Venue: Plant and Food Research, 121 Keri Downs Road, RD1 Kerikeri 0294
Other information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/ • As a result of the Myrtle Rust DOC will be undertaking seed collection of native Myrtle species for seed banking to secure the long term future of some taonga species. A team from the Bay of Islands Office is planning to start in Puketū and Ngawha on Thursday, local hapu are welcome to accompany the team, if interested contact the Office 09 407 0300. • 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
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next update will be sent out on Thursday 18 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