

Whānau, keep a look out for Myrtle Rust!

Plants at risk include:

- a. pōhutukawa, mānuka, rātā, kānuka, rōhutu, ramarama, swamp maire
- b. eucalyptus, feijoa, guava



Six examples of plants from the myrtle family that grow in New Zealand. Clockwise from top left: pōhutukawa, manuka, bottlebrush, feijoa, ramarama and blue gum.

It generally affects soft, new growth, including leaf surfaces, shoots, buds, flowers and fruit.

Symptoms to look out for are:

- a. Bright yellowy powdery eruptions appearing on the underside of the leaf (young infection)
- b. Bright yellow powdery eruptions on both sides of the leaf (mature infection)
- c. Brown/grey pustules (older spores) on older lesions
- d. Some leaves may become buckled or twist and die off.



If you think you've spotted Myrtle Rust:

- Do not touch it, as this may increase the spread of the disease.
- Call the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) *Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline* immediately on 0800 80 99 66.
- If you have a camera, take clear photos, including the whole plant, the whole affected leaf, and a close-up of the spores/affected area.

This and other information may be found at the following websites:

- MPI at <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust/>
- Department of Conservation at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/myrtlerust>.