

Identification Sheet

Uredo rangelii (Myrtle rust)

The fungus *Uredo rangelii* (Myrtle rust) has been detected on a commercial property on the New South Wales central coast. Myrtle rust is considered to be part of a group of rust fungi collectively known as eucalyptus/guava rust.

Early identification of this rust is vital to eradication efforts.

Host species: In Australia, Myrtle rust has recently been detected on *Agonis* (willow myrtle), *Syncarpia* (turpentine) and *Callistemon* (bottlebrush) species. Internationally, there are unconfirmed reports of infection on some *Eucalyptus* species. It has also been confirmed on *Myrtus*, *Syzygium* and *Heteropyxis* species overseas.

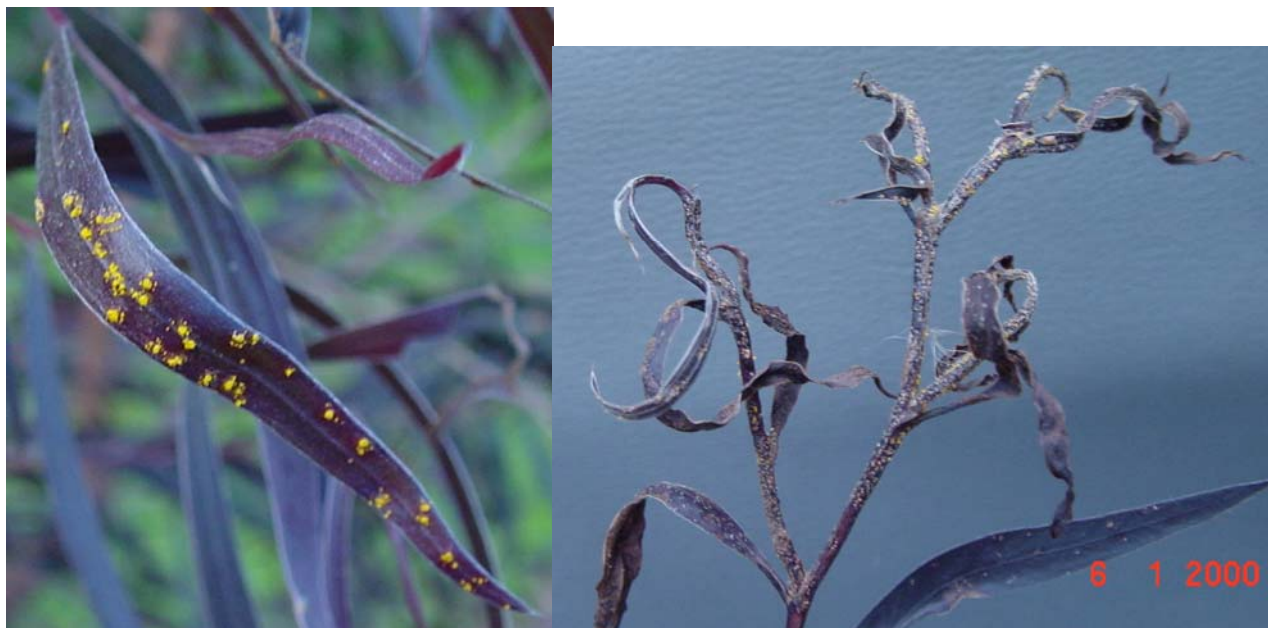
Spread: Rusts are highly transportable. The most common dispersal mechanism is via wind but they may also attract bees who work the spores on leaves. The spores can also be spread via contaminated clothing, infected plant material and insect movement.

Identification: Myrtle rust produces lesions on young, actively growing leaves and shoots, as well as on fruits and sepals. Leaves may become buckled or twisted as a result of infection. On turpentine and callistemon rust lesions are purple in colour, with masses of bright yellow or orange-yellow spores. Occasionally, they may have dark brown spores. Severe rust disease in young trees may kill shoot tips, causing loss of leaders and a bushy habit. **See next page for images.**

Any rust on Myrtaceae should be reported.

**Reporting: To report suspect cases of Myrtle rust please call the
Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881**

***Uredo rangelii* on *Agonis flexuosa* (Willow Myrtle)**



***Uredo rangelii* on Turpentine**



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