

What is Myrtle Rust?

Posted by Dane Pickering - 05 May 2011 19:46

Myrtle Rust (*Uredo rangelii*) is a newly described fungus that is closely related to the Eucalyptus/Guava rusts. These rusts are serious pathogens which affect plants belonging to the family Myrtaceae including Australian natives like bottle brush (*Callistemon* spp.), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* spp.).

Myrtle Rust is distinctive in that it produces masses of powdery bright yellow or orange-yellow spores on infected plant parts. It infects leaves of susceptible plants producing spore-filled lesions on young actively growing leaves, shoots, flower buds and fruits. Leaves may become buckled or twisted and may die as a result of infection. Sometimes these infected spots are surrounded by a purple ring. Older lesions may contain dark brown spores. Infection on highly susceptible plants may result in plant death.

Information taken from the DPI website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust)

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