

Transcript: What is myrtle rust?

Video length: 1:31

[Video begins. Pleasant music is playing. A logo appears with the words: 'Myrtle rust – Community Education'. Below it, the words 'What is myrtle rust?' appear.]

[The shot changes and a leaf with myrtle rust appears.]

Karin Van der Walt (Conservation & Science Advisor, Otari Native Botanic Garden): "Rusts are a fungal disease and they affect a wide variety of plants. They got their name from the rust-coloured spores that they produce.

"Myrtle rust, as the name suggests, is a serious fungal disease affecting plants in the myrtaceae family."

[The shot changes – Karin Van der Walt is speaking to the camera, in front of native bush outside.]

Karin: "Myrtle rust spores are microscopic and can easily travel large distances, by the wind, or by insects, birds, or humans.

[The shot changes to examples of plant species that can be infected with myrtle rust.]

Karin: "The rust generally attacks soft, new growth, including leaf surfaces, buds, flowers, and fruit.

"Seedlings and young plants of certain species may die entirely as a result of myrtle rust.

"Because myrtle rust affects the new growth, these infected trees might not be able to regenerate effectively, and repeated infections can cause these trees to die entirely."

[Shot changes to show photos of *Rhodamnia angustifolia* – Narrow leaved malletwood]

Karin: "For example, these trees are from Australia, where myrtle rust has been established for longer. Australia has a different eco-system from New Zealand, and so it might not be exactly the same, but this is how the trees are affected there."

[Shot changes. A cartoon picture of leaves infected with myrtle rust appears. The words "Stage 1: Spores appear on one side of the leaf" appear.]

This shows a typical progression of the symptoms of myrtle rust.

First there are spores on one side of the leaf only.

[Shot changes. The cartoon picture of leaves now has more myrtle rust spores. The words "Stage 2: Spores appear on both sides of the leaf" appear.]

Then the spores are on both sides of the leaf.

[Shot changes. The myrtle rust spores on the cartoon leaves turn grey.]

The spores turn grey, then they turn fuzzy,

[Shot changes. The cartoon leaves turn brown and die.]

And finally the leaf (or it could even be the leaf and stem) dies.

[Video ends]