

Transcript: How to remove infected myrtle plants

Video length: 2:23

[Video begins. Pleasant music is playing. A logo appears with the words: 'Myrtle rust – Community Education'. Below it, the words 'How to remove infected myrtle plants' appear.]

Karin Van der Walt (Conservation & Science Advisor, Otari Native Botanic Garden): "If you want to remove infected myrtle plants and safely dispose of the waste yourself, go to the MPI website and find this document: <https://www.myrtlerust.org.nz/assets/Uploads/How-to-remove-infected-myrtle-plants-and-safely-dispose-of-the-waste.pdf> "

[Karin shows the document to the camera.]

[Karin begins describing the process for removing an infected plant. For each step in the process, a photo appears. Each photo demonstrates each step in action.]

Karin: "The process for removing an infected plant:

- "Put on gloves and an outer layer that you are able to wash after the removal of the plant. Overalls are a good option.
- "Then, apply some hairspray to the infected plant and allow it to dry – this may take 10 to 20 minutes. It is important to make sure that all the spores on the infected plant are well covered with hairspray. When the hairspray dries this will contain the spores and the leaves for removal.
- "Then you cut the branches with secateurs or a saw to dismantle the whole plant bit by bit. If it is a really small plant, simply place the bag over the plant and either dig it out in one piece or cut the trunk to remove it. If you have a large tree and limited infection over the entire tree you could use this protocol to remove an infected branch all the way back to the trunk rather than removing the entire tree.
- "Then, place the cuttings into a large black rubbish bag, ensuring that you can still seal the bag at the top.
- "Tip 1 litre of water into the bag and seal the bag tightly (this is approximately a jug of water or a large drink bottle full).
- "Outer clothing or overalls should be taken off and placed into a bag. This can be taken home and washed normally in a hot or cold wash with detergent.
- "Clean all equipment you have used. This can be done by wiping the equipment with methylated spirits. A 5% bleach concentration bath can also be used. Equipment will need to be soaked for 20 minutes, then rinsed and dried. If you do not have methylated spirits or bleach then wash equipment in water with detergent and leave to dry.
- "Leave the bag for 3 to 4 weeks in a sunny spot to kill any spores inside, turning the bag every week.
- "After 3 to 4 weeks the plant material can be sent to the local landfill in the bag as general waste or buried on-site in your garden. Do not open the bag, as it could contain bacteria that could be harmful to human health such as Legionella that causes legionnaires disease."

[Video ends]