

Transcript: The spread of myrtle rust

Video length: 1:56

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

Karin Van der Walt (Conservation & Science Advisor, Otari Native Botanic Garden): "Myrtle rust spores are microscopic and can travel large distances by wind, or via insects, birds, people, or machinery.

"Unfortunately, by the time that the rust spores are visible on the plants, plants have been infected for at least 2 weeks and spores have already been spreading. With the windborne nature of the disease and the abundance of suitable plants that can be infected with myrtle rust in the New Zealand environment, the disease has spread rapidly and is now considered established and widespread across New Zealand.

"Infection risk and impact depends on:

- "suitable climatic conditions
- "host availability
- "and host susceptibility

"And these three factors may vary over time, as well."

[The shot changes. A map of the North Island of New Zealand appears. Beside it, the words 'Myrtle rust detections by site. May 2017- June 2018. Prediction the climatic risk of myrtle rust during the first year in New Zealand. See the link in the resources section below'. As Karin talks, the number of infections is shown over time for six sites located across the North Island.]

Karin: "According to Beresford et al., 2018, the New Zealand areas or regions predicted by the myrtle rust process model (also known as 'MRPM') to have the greatest climatic risk of myrtle rust establishment are:

[The shot changes. A map of New Zealand showing each different region appears. Above the map is the title: 'High Risk Areas'. As Karin mentions each risk area on the map, that area becomes highlighted.]

- "Northland
- "Auckland (except the isthmus)
- "coastal Bay of Plenty
- "north of Gisborne (East Cape)
- "Waikato
- "northern Taranaki
- "north-west Tasman."

[The shot changes. A map of New Zealand showing each different region appears. Above the map is the title: 'Moderate Risk Areas'. As Karin mentions each risk area on the map, that area becomes highlighted.]

Karin: "Predicted risk is slightly lower, but still substantial, for:

- "the Auckland isthmus
- "low elevation areas of Taupō

- "inland Bay of Plenty
- "southern Taranaki
- "coastal areas of Manawatu-Whanganui
- "Kapiti Coast-Wellington
- "Gisborne
- "Hawke's Bay
- "Wairarapa
- "the rest of Tasman
- "northern West Coast
- "Nelson
- "coastal Marlborough."

[The shot changes. A map of New Zealand showing each different region appears. Above the map is the title: 'Lower Risk Areas'. As Karin mentions each risk area on the map, that area becomes highlighted.]

Karin: "Eastern South Island areas south of Marlborough have relatively low risk, as does coastal Southland. The lowest risk occurs in mountainous areas, particularly in the South Island."

[Video ends]