

## Myrtle Rust Tangata Whenua Update - 11 May 2017 4:30pm

For information about this update, contact <a href="mailto:MR2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz">MR2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz</a>	This update includes key information from the daily situation reports (SITREPs) from both MPI and DoC. <b>Light blue text below indicates new information (based on 10 May update).</b>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myrtle Rust was confirmed in New Zealand (in a Kerikeri plant nursery) on 3 May 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>There has been 1 new suspect find today. The site has been placed under restriction, samples taken and sent for testing.</b></li> <li>There are still only 2 confirmed sites where myrtle rust has been found. Both sites are within the same 500m zone.</li> <li>All other suspected finds have been confirmed as negative today, including one at an Auckland nursery.</li> <li>The confirmed infected properties are under legal restriction (Restricted Place Notices).</li> </ul>
<b>Incident Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MPI is acting as the lead agency for the response with support from other central and local government agencies, industry and tangata whenua.</li> <li>National Coordination Centre is based at MPI Wellington.</li> <li>Local coordination is based at the DoC Bay of Islands office in Kerikeri.</li> </ul>
<b>Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Iwi liaison continues at a local and national level.</b></li> <li><b>Ground teams in Kerikeri have completed inspections of the areas extending 500 metres out from the 2 confirmed positive sites.</b></li> <li><b>Teams are now checking nurseries around Kerikeri and other locations within NZ identified from the forward tracing work.</b></li> <li>Guidance for treatment options and movement control is being developed.</li> <li>All suspect infected plants and trees have been treated with sealant to completely seal the trees to prevent the spread of spores.</li> <li>Tracing from the initial nursery continues.</li> </ul>
<b>Intelligence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A request for information (RFI) process has been set up for stakeholders by MPI in Wellington so if you have any questions relating to the response, contact <a href="mailto:MR2017_Intel@mpi.govt.nz">MR2017_Intel@mpi.govt.nz</a></b></li> <li>Collation of field data is the primary focus. This includes tracking samples and testing results.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developing tailored communications for key groups impacted by the response.</b></li> <li><b>Planning work around impact of weather on field operations is ongoing.</b></li> <li>Development of long term planning options has begun.</li> <li>Seed collection work is ramping up.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The next update will be sent out on Friday afternoon by 5.00pm</b></li> <li>Please feel free to share this information with anyone you feel will be interested.</li> </ul>

Remember, early detection is vital to any attempt to control myrtle rust. Full information including media updates, pictures and a fact sheet is at: [www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust).  
<http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/>

If you believe you have seen myrtle rust on plants in New Zealand:

- Take a clear photo of symptoms and the host plant if possible
- Immediately call MPI on 0800 80 99 66
- Do not attempt to touch the plant as this may aid in the spread of the disease