

# Check your backyard

**Myrtle rust** can infect and damage some common garden trees and hedges

**Myrtle rust has now spread to many parts of the country and is rampant in urban gardens.** Slowing the spread and stopping the disease from infecting our native forests is our best tool for preventing local and national species extinction.



## Myrtle Rust Recognise

Look for bright yellow  
powdery spores on  
young leaves



## Myrtle Rust Report

Use iNaturalist.nz to report  
infected plants



## Myrtle Rust Remove

Learn how to remove  
infected plants from  
your garden

**RECOGNISE – Myrtle rust infects all plants from the myrtle family differently.** The three worst infected garden plants in Aotearoa are commercial cultivars of lilly pilly, ramarama and pōhutukawa.

Lilly pilly – hedges, particularly  
the cultivar “Resilience”



Ramarama – particularly the  
cultivar “Red Dragon”



Pōhutukawa – seedlings and  
epicormic growth (new shoots)



**REPORT – Use iNaturalist to report myrtle rust infections.** This can be done by using [the iNaturalist website](https://www.inaturalist.org/) or download the free app from your device’s app store.

Check your backyard

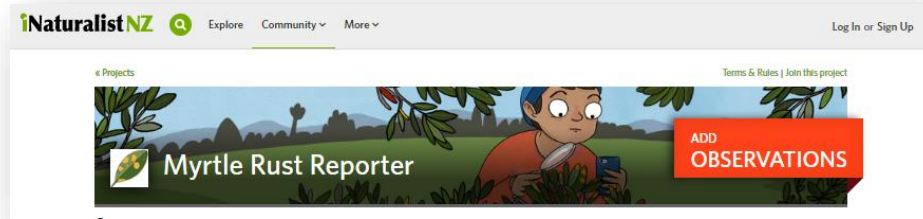


Myrtle Rust  
can damage our  
Pōhutukawa

[Click here to learn more](#)

Help protect our way of life

KO TĀTOU THIS IS US



**REMOVE** – Landowners are encouraged to remove infected plants as well as highly susceptible amenity myrtle plants on their own property to help limit the spread of the disease and help to protect other plants on their property.



## How to safely remove small trees or branches infected with myrtle rust...

### What you will need...

- Coveralls and gloves (that can be washed or discarded)
- Secateurs and or saw
- Water (a hose or large watering can)
- Paper towels or cloths (that can be washed or discarded)
- *Optional:* Large rubbish bags
- Methylated spirits or bleach

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| <p>1. <b>Put on gloves and an outer layer</b> that you can wash or dispose of after removing of the plant.</p> <p>Washable overalls are a good option.</p>   |   |
| <p>2. <b>Apply water to the infected plant until it is dripping.</b> It is important to make sure that the top and underside of all the leaves on the infected plant are wet.</p> <p>Another option is to remove infected plants while it is raining or just after a heavy rainfall. Avoid removing plants on windy day.</p> |  |
| <p>3. <b>Cut the infected branches</b> with the secateurs or saw.</p> <p>If it is a small plant either dig it out or cut the trunk to remove it. To prevent regrowth, herbicide paste can be applied to the cut trunk.</p>   |  |





4. Cut off branches and trees (material) **can then be buried, composted, or taken to the local landfill.**

Make sure all the infected off cuts remain dripping wet during this process.

Dripping wet material can also be chipped, if you are employing an arborist, this is how they are likely to process material. The chip can then be easily buried, composted, or taken to landfill.



5. **DO NOT BURN** as smoke can spread viable spores.

If you are wanting to use this as mulch, **leave for at least a week before using** and ensure that all chipped material stays dripping wet for this period.

If using a chipper, make sure to hose down the chipper afterwards.



6. **Clean all equipment** this can be done by wiping the equipment with 80% methylated spirits or soak equipment in a 5% bleach concentration bath for 20 minutes then rinse and dry.

If you do not have methylated spirits or bleach, then wash equipment in water with detergent and leave to dry.



7. **Overalls or outer clothing should be taken off and placed into a bag.** This can be taken home and washed as normal in either cold or hot water with detergent.

Dispose of anything that cannot be washed or cleaned by sealing in a bag and taking to local landfill.

