

Myrtle rust infection updates

The team at Scion didn't stop for long over the Christmas break – this is their latest news about myrtle rust infections at selected monitoring sites in the North Island.



Lake Rotoiti and Rotoma:

- There was more infection than expected for this early in the season. Ramarama has been hit particularly hard, with all parts of the plant infected.
- The first infection was recorded at the Lake Rotoiti site, on rōhutu.

Te Puke

- Infection has been found within the research orchard.

Hunua Ranges

- Little/no infection found this season.
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Overall

- Infection was found on *Meterosideros perforata* and *M. fulgens* (akatea, climbing rata) for the first time.
- Dieback on plants is visible already. This wasn't visible last year until late February/early March.
- Myrtle rust was found on all new foliage this year and teliospores were found on rōhutu.

To get a picture of myrtle rust infection across Aotearoa you can [click here to view Plant & Food's nation-wide map](#).

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Photo credit: Roanne Sutherland, Scion