



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

A horizontal strip of small images showing various agricultural products: oranges, a field, a wooden fence, a palm tree, a green leaf, a stack of logs, a row of green beans, a blue fish, and a yellow flower.

Myrtle Rust Coordination Group – strategy for transition to management

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Some of the history

25 April 2010: Identified as new incursion in Kulnura

27 April 2010: Consultative Committee established

30 April 2010: Eradication not technically feasible

7 May 2010: Reconsideration (2 IPs only)

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2 December: MR in Olney State Forest (116 IP)

22 December: NMG agreed not technically feasible

23 December: CEOs agreed to establish MRCG



Myrtle Rust Coordination Group

Purpose is to oversee transition to management, including research on taxonomy, impact, control options and communication, in the national interest

Comprises of

- Commonwealth and State Governments
- Plant Health Australia
- Industry associations
- Environmental Groups



National Transition Strategy

National Management Plan (Dec 2010):

- 13 Projects, \$10 M over 5 years proposed
- Public / private benefit consideration
- Wide range of expectations and stakeholders

Now reworked into a National Strategy comprising
19 proposed projects in six thematic areas:

- Purpose is to identify “issue owners” and targets
- Funding issues are now being progressed

Disease will spread while we marshal efforts



1: Coordination and Communications

Coordinate messages through a transparent, consistent and informative communications strategy for all identified stakeholders. Develop a strategy for longer term management

5 Projects

- Program management and oversight
- Environment Communications
- Public Communications
- Industry Communications
- Approaches for long term management



2: Immediate Disease Management

Immediately manage and slow down spread in known areas of Myrtle rust through targeted surveillance. Implement internationally consistent domestic quarantine, movement and market access arrangements

4 Projects:

- Management of intrastate zones
- Surveillance within zones
- Surveillance sites in non-infected zones/states
- Quarantine movement and market access issues



3: Taxonomy & Identity of pathogen

Increase knowledge, through research and international collaboration, of *Uredo rangelii* and its place in the Guava Rust Complex

2 Projects:

- Taxonomy of *Uredo rangelii*
- International science collaboration



4: Potential Impact & Distribution

Quantify the impacts of infection on a range of hosts including identification of tolerant genotypes for commercial deployment.

4 Projects

- Germplasm screening of native species
- Germplasm screening of commercial species
- Risk assessment of impacts on native hosts
- Risk assessment of impacts on commercial hosts



5: Chemical Control options

Develop directions for the use of chemicals and data to extend minor use permits to full use registration by the APVMA.

2 Projects:

- Chemical control for native and domestic environ's
- Chemical control options for commercial environ's



6: Resistance Breeding options

Identify sources of host plant resistance that could be used to mitigate the impact of Myrtle rust in industry and environmental settings

2 Projects:

- Genetic basis for environmental host resistance
- Genetic basis for commercial host resistance



Immediate priorities

Move from eradication to management mindset

Develop shared ownership of projects and find \$\$

Taxonomy and role of MR in “Guava Rust Complex”?

- Is this rust as ‘plastic’ as other rusts?
- What knowledge can we use from GR overseas?
- How durable might genetic resistance be?

Surveillance – where will it go next?

Impact – how would it affect natural ecosystems

Management options

- Chemical registration for commercial and home use
- Scope for breeding of resistant varieties



Immediate activities

Communication and community engagement

RIRDC workshop in Wollongbar (23 Feb)

Botanical Gardens workshop (10 Mar)

Roundtable of Taxonomy experts (1 April)

- AQIS Permit to import overseas specimens
- Assemble molecular and morphological data

DQMAWG resolving interstate nursery trade issues

SPHDS – diagnostic standards for MR / GR

APVMA permits extended – NSW leads this area

Extension of host screening work done by CSIRO

Landscape level modelling by CSIRO and ACERA



Longer term prospects

What would be the true impact of this disease?

- Environment (including food webs and conservation)
- Commercial forestry, tea tree and other industries
- Trade of products
- Amenity values

We need to build up national R&D capabilities for long-term management of this disease and its impacts

- Scope for a Centre of Excellence?
- International science collaboration?