

## Guava (*Eucalyptus*) rust

### What is Guava rust?

Guava rust (*Puccinia psidii*) is a fungal pathogen of a wide range of host plant species, especially those in the Myrtaceae family. Like other rusts, Guava rust spreads quickly and would be extremely difficult to control.

A Guava rust incursion into Australia would impact the native biodiversity, commercial operations, forestry, wildflower production and urban streetscapes and gardens.

### What does it look like?

Brown to grey lesions are produced on actively growing leaves, shoots, fruit and sepals on infected plants. These lesions may be surrounded by, or totally covered in, masses of bright yellow to orange spores. Older lesions can show a purpling of their margins.

Severe infections in young trees may kill shoot tips, causing a loss of leaders and a bushy growth habit. Prolific branching and galling, or persistent localised lesions, stem swellings or leaf distortions have been reported in many species.

### What can it be confused with?

A number of other fungal pathogens are known to cause similar shoot dieback symptoms, particularly when associated with extreme environmental conditions. However, any rust symptoms in members of the Myrtaceae family in Australia should be reported.

### What should I look for?

The development of lesions on leaves, stems, fruit or sepals or shoot dieback symptoms, particularly on plants in the Myrtaceae family.



Gradient of symptom severity on *Eucalyptus* seedlings

PaDIL (D. T. Junghans)



Spore covered lesions and shoot dieback in *Eucalyptus* seedling as a result of Guava rust infection

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*Melaleuca* stem showing dieback symptoms

Forest & Kim Starr, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org



Division of Plant Industry Archive, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org

Dark lesions formed on a guava leaf due to Guava rust infection

### How does it spread?

The spores are produced in vast numbers and are readily dispersed by wind or rain splash. Spores can also be spread on clothing, equipment and vehicles.

### Where is it now?

Guava rust is native to South America, but has now become established throughout the Americas, as well as in India and Japan.

### How can I protect my production nursery from Guava rust?

Check your production nursery frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pests of the nursery production industry so you can tell if you see something different

**If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**



Forest & Kim Starr, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

Lesions on Malaysian apple leaves, which are covered with yellow spores



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Rust induced lesions on Eucalyptus leaves

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