

23 April 2010

Myrtle rust was identified in a NSW Central Coast nursery.

24 April 2010

Surveys of nurseries in region start.

27 April 2010

The Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, a federal-state committee met to determine whether eradication or containment was feasible. The CCEPP agreed that surveys should occur in the area to determine feasibility of eradication.

The National Management Group accepted the CCEPP recommendation to proceed with a national cost-shared eradication response.

28 April 2010

A second infected site was found – a wholesale nursery 8km from original site. But the rust was not found on known and likely hosts in bushland surrounding either of the 2 infected sites, nor anywhere else.

30 April 2010

The CCEPP met and decided it was not technically feasible to eradicate the rust. The federal government led NMG accepted the CCEPP recommendation not to proceed with a national cost-shared eradication response.

But NSW proceeded with their own emergency response so as to maintain the potential for eradication. Much criticism arises around the NMG decision to declare failure so early, on the basis of just 2 infected premises.

6 May 2010

Plant Health Australia asked the CCEPP to reconsider their advice that the rust was not eradicable.

In May a few more sites were discovered and quarantine measures were applied.

2 July 2010

The NMG agreed to the NSW interim plan – to attempt to suppress the rust with a long-term view to the eradication of the disease—while additional data was being obtained. A fully activated emergency response was initiated under the PLANTPLAN.

Additional resources under to national cost-sharing arrangements were put into the NSW eradication effort.

28 October 2010

Myrtle rust found in bushland for the very first time - 6 months after it was first deemed ineradicable.

2 December 2010

CCEPP again decided it was no longer technically feasible to eradicate the rust.

22 December 2010

The federal government led National Management Group ended the national (cost-shared) response. The NSW response involved more than 1600 inspections of more than 1300 locations. 201 infected premises were detected.

Late December 2010

Myrtle rust was first detected in southeast Queensland.

From Emergency response to the incursion of an exotic myrtaceous rust in Australia, Angus J. Carnegie & Kevin Cooper, Australasian Plant Pathol. DOI 10.1007/s13313-011-0066-6