

President's Report

MEPA work continues well. Recent roadwork projects by Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Department of Main Roads presented challenges for the health of the surrounding National Park. Machinery can bring in new weeds, and roadside disturbance kills native grass cover and invites weed-growth. Of course, last year's maintenance and more recent landslip repair work is necessary but by speaking with our "contacts" and constructively talking with them (having onsite meetings and offering solutions) we are able to promote good practice and then come in behind with partner funding to pay contractors to "clean up" after the project is complete. Our local knowledge and local specialists in weed control mean that we can add an essential ingredient to the project that results in better environmental outcomes for everyone. (The community should be very proud of its growing population of highly skilled and professional weed contractors who make much of this work possible).

Energex have rejoined our Strategic Weed Project with a \$10,000 contribution. Transport and Main Roads have also contributed \$6,000+ to manage weeds along Mt Glorious Road following disturbance due to drainage work and repair work, and to continue work on an outbreak of Morning Glory along the South Pine River. Other funders (Moreton Bay Regional Council, Brisbane City Council, Powerlink, and SEQ Catchments) and partners (QPWS) remain firm supporters.

Thus another hectic summer slowly turns to autumn.

Dominic Hyde

Do your block!

Free bushcare service

Would you like some assistance managing bushland on your block? Advice on weeds or advice on planting local native plants in your garden?

MEPA has a free service offering advice and information (supported by MBRC)

Contact Maggie - 3289 8175 or
Dominic - 3289 0093 or
Email: askmepa@yahoo.com.au

Myrtle rust

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. Biosecurity Queensland Fact Sheet.

Have you seen this plant disease?

Myrtle rust was first detected in Queensland in December 2010. It is a serious fungal disease and part of the eucalyptus/guava rust complex. This group of pathogens affects plants from the Myrtaceae family including Australian natives like bottle brush (*Callistemon* spp.) tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* spp.).

What does myrtle rust look like?

First signs of myrtle rust infection are tiny raised spots or pustules on infected leaves. After a few days these pustules turn a distinctive egg-yolk yellow colour. The rust poses no threat to human or animal health.



Myrtle rust on willow myrtle. Photo: Angus Carnegie, DII/NSW.

What plants can be infected with myrtle rust?

Myrtle rust is known only to affect myrtaceous plants. Currently, there are more than 25 known host species affected by or susceptible to myrtle rust.

What do I do if I see myrtle rust?

Do not move any infected plant material, in order to avoid spreading the disease, and report the location immediately to:

Biosecurity Queensland: 13 25 23

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881

Myrtle rust has the potential to impact on about 2250 Australian native plant spp. in the family Myrtaceae. This represents about 10% of the country's plants.

Gardening in the Mountains

Attracting Birds to your Garden

We all enjoy having birds in our gardens but we need to give some thought as to how we go about this so we don't create an imbalance in the local plant and bird populations. Some birds feed on fruit and seeds, others enjoy nectar and most will collect insects, particularly in the nesting season, to feed their young.

The aim should be to provide a balanced bird garden by growing a variety of indigenous (local) natives and also providing different feeding levels – ground, shrub and tree. The provision of 'safe' areas for the smaller birds as well as some permanent water in the form of a pond rather than birdbath, which may spread disease, is also a consideration.

Our efforts are usually focused at eye level with the introduction of bird feeders (which birds may come to rely on) and introduced plants such as wattles, grevilleas and bottlebrush. However, apart from some wattles, silky oak and *Grevillia banksii*, most of these plants will not naturalise here but they may alter the local bird population. Remember, it is the plants such as *Ochna*, mock orange, Chinese elm, wild tobacco etc. that were introduced for the birds in the past that are now causing us much grief.

Below is a list of some local plants for each level that may be obtained from places such as 'Greening Australia' at The Gap and 'Pine Rivers Community Nursery' at Eaton's Crossing. They will also be able to suggest other plants that may be in stock and specific to your particular area.

Ground: (Grasses, strappy plants, creepers)

<i>Themeda triandra</i>	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	<i>Gahnia aspera</i>
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>

Shrubs/Small trees:

<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	<i>Trema tomentosa</i>
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	<i>Pittosp. multiflorum</i>
<i>Alchornea ilicifolia</i>	<i>Homolanthus nutans</i>
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	

<i>Gossia inophloia</i>	<i>Gossia hillii</i>
<i>Psychotria loniceroides</i>	<i>Psychotria daphnoides</i>
<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i>	<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>
<i>Ficus coronata</i>	<i>Ficus fraseri</i>
<i>Alectryon tomentosus</i>	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>

Trees:

<i>Synoum glandulosum</i>	<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>
<i>Jagera pseudorhus</i>	<i>Acmena brachyandra</i>
<i>Syzygium corynanthum</i>	<i>Syzygium crebrinerve</i>
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>
<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>
<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>

Wendy Lees



Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*) Sarah Lowe

Declared pests – meaning of classifications

Class 3. A Class 3 pest is one that is **commonly established** in parts of Queensland and a notice may be issued on a landowner to take reasonable action against the weed if it is causing, or has the potential to cause, an adverse impact on an 'environmentally significant area' nearby (e.g. a national park).

Examples of Class 3 weeds (Common names)

Easter Cassia - *Flowering Now*

Lantana	Yellow bells	Kahili ginger
Cat's claw vine	Madeira vine	Balloon vine
Asparagus fern	Singapore daisy	Chinese elm
Camphor Laurel	Broadleaf pepper tree	
African tulip tree	Privet (large and small leafed)	

It is an offence to sell, introduce, release or supply a Class 3 pest plant.

Further information on DEEDI website:

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_19013.htm