

twisted and die off. It is interesting that mostly younger plants are being infected. In Australia, eucalypts are affected mostly at the juvenile stage and with modest malformation resulting. However, in Brazil, larger plants and some clonal material is now being damaged.

MPI ask that if you have seen the symptoms of myrtle rust, do not touch it –

- Call the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline immediately on 0800 80 99 66
- If you have a camera, take clear photographs, including the whole plant, the whole affected leaf and a close-up of the spores and affected area of the plant
- Do not touch it or try to collect samples as this may increase the spread of the disease.

Incident control is based in Wellington. MPI is acting as the lead agency for the response with support from

other central and local government agencies, industry and tangata whenua. Local coordination is based at the DOC Bay of Islands office in Kerikeri.

In New Plymouth, local coordination has been set up at the Taranaki Emergency Management Centre. Generally, destruction and removal of infected plants and their neighbours has been undertaken and surrounding the plants heavily treated with a fungicide and all areas closed off and monitored for further outbreaks.

When this article was written in late June, the most recent identification at Te Puke was the first for a couple of weeks and while in the areas so this is unlikely to mean that the outbreak has been contained. It does indicate that with with good practice the consequences of this new pest may be able to be lessened.

Peter Berg is the NZFFA representative on the levy funded Biosecurity Committee. 🌲

Emissions Trading Scheme



Emissions Trading Scheme Register or miss out on five more years

Stuart Orme

In another six months' time, the Emissions Trading Scheme will be 10 years old and the opportunity to collect the second five years' worth of carbon will slip by if you do nothing. If you have land not in the ETS but which could be eligible, then we cannot recommend strongly enough that you make an application to the Ministry for Primary Industries as soon as possible.

The reason for the urgency is that we have some reasonably clean applications that have been with MPI for several months and yet still not processed. MPI have advised us that, unless they receive applications promptly, they may not have the time and resources to process them, let alone get them back in time for participants to answer the evidence requests that quite often arise.

In previous articles we have covered the potential benefits of the ETS. Here are a couple more points worth mentioning.

Additional carbon available through Field Measurement Approach is only available if you have more than 100 hectares registered in the ETS. Your trees may be putting on more carbon than the standard tables suggest. Therefore, if you can, it may be worth adding more land to reach this 100-hectare threshold which

allows you to measure the amount of carbon actually being added by your trees.

A review of the ETS is in progress at the moment. The results will hopefully be known soon. One of the recommendations may mean, if it is accepted, that an owner will be able to get more of the 'enduring' carbon and therefore have more units available. If you have the credits you have the options.

The big opportunities that we see if you miss out on the ETS are predominantly –

- Reverting indigenous vegetation which is worth anywhere between \$50 and \$350 a hectare each year, depending on the value of the carbon units
- Plantings of poplar and willow which are greater than 30 metres wide on average and unlikely to be felled due to the protection purposes they were planted for
- Any plantings where land owners have previously not been prepared to engage with the ETS due to political uncertainty but now might wish to reconsider.

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