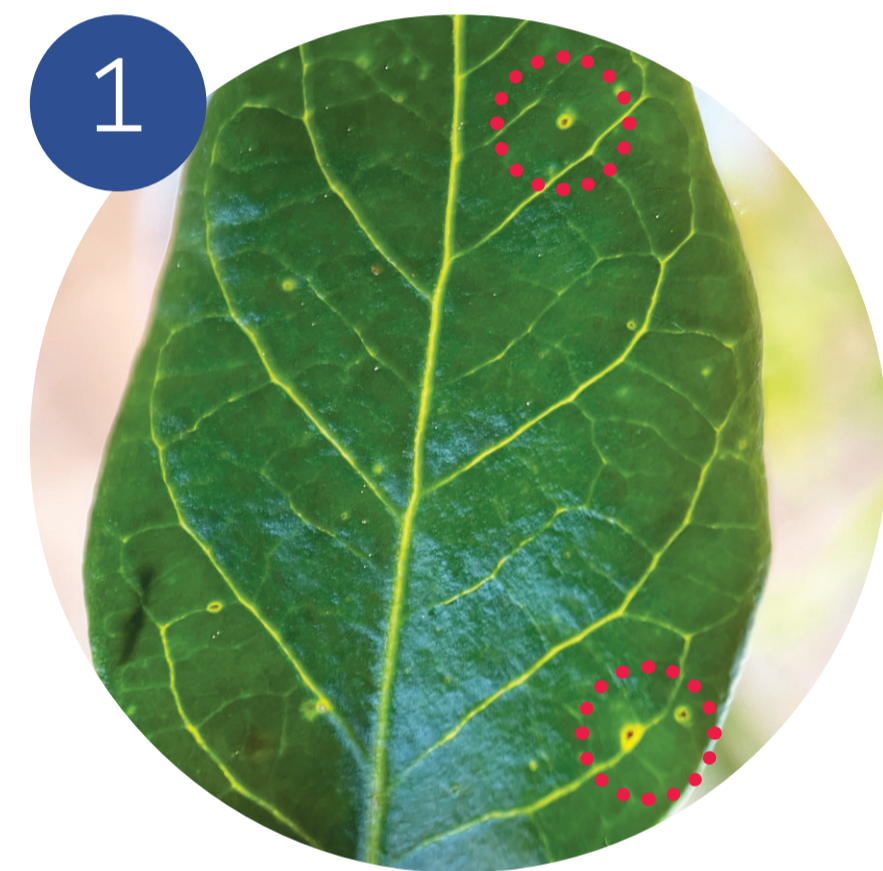


Managing Rust in Blueberries

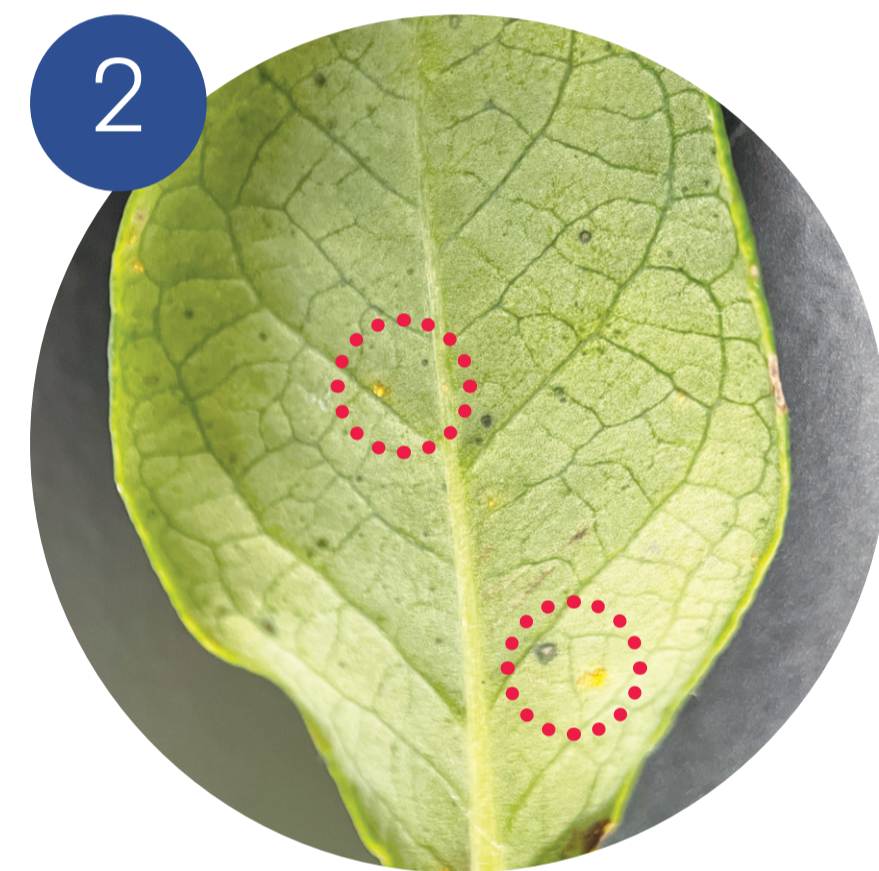
INTRODUCTION

Blueberry rust thrives in warm, wet conditions, especially when there are extended periods of leaf wetness. The disease is caused by the pathogen *Pucciniastrum minimum* formerly known as *Thekopsora minima*.

SYMPTOMS & DISEASE PROGRESSION



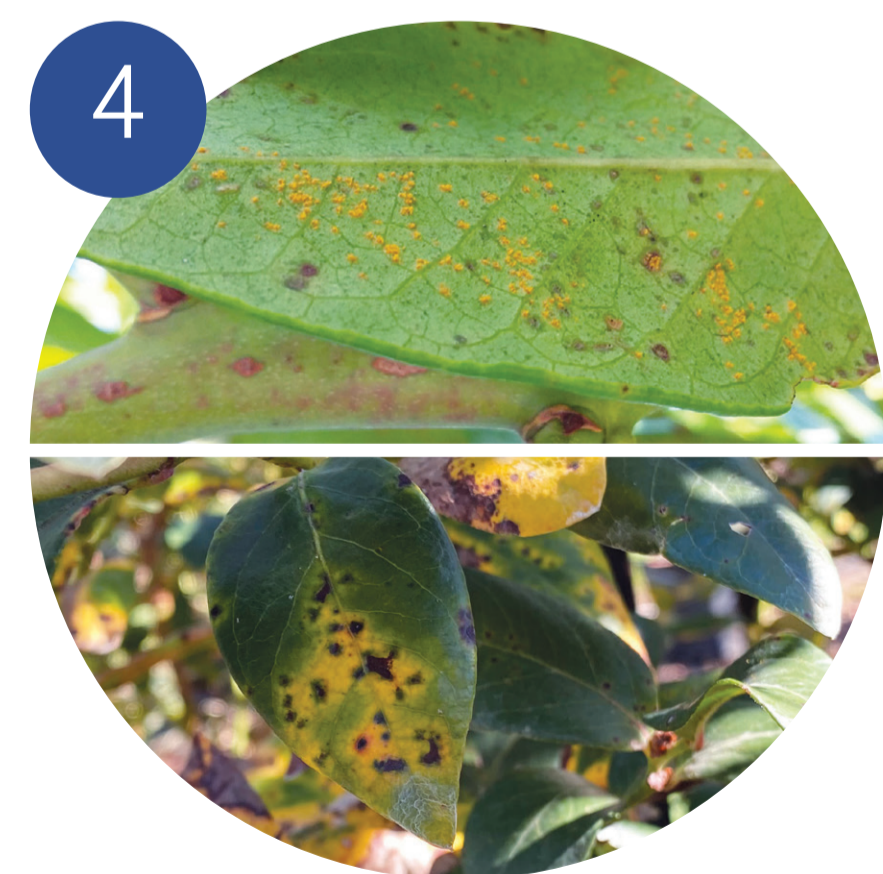
1 First, small **pale-bright yellow lesions** appear on the upper leaf surface



2 Then small **yellow pustules** containing spores form on the underside of the leaf



3 As the lesions age they **turn reddish brown**, increase in size and merge together



4 Later stages of blueberry rust appear as **dark spots** surrounded by **yellowing on the leaf**

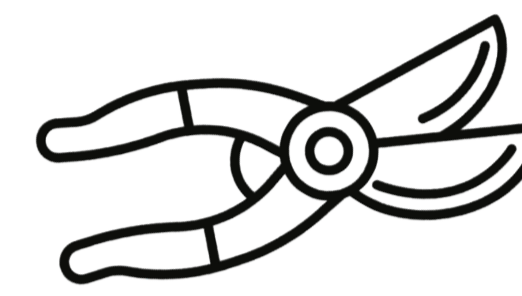


5 Early fruit symptoms appear as **Purplish sunken lesions** around the calyx which typically have yellow spores

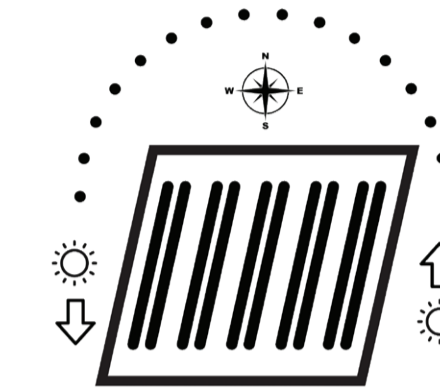


6 **Yellow pustules** around the calyx can be seen on ripe fruit

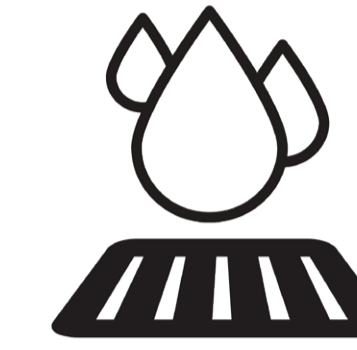
CULTURAL MANAGEMENT



Prune to open up canopy for a reduction in leaf wetness



Orient rows (where possible) to **encourage air flow**



Reduce humidity by preventing water from pooling i.e. **good drainage**



Implement good **biosecurity practices** and inspect nursery plants on arrival

INFECTION & FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

The rust fungus will only infect living plant tissues and survives primarily in infected leaves that remain on the plant after pruning.

	GERMINATION	INFECTION
TEMPERATURE	5°C TO 30°C	15°C TO 25°C
HIGH HUMIDITY	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK
LOW HUMIDITY	LOW RISK	LOW RISK



CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

Permitted products for blueberry rust control in Australia. Always read and follow permit and label directions.

CHEMICAL	PERMIT NO.	WITHHOLDING PERIOD	PERMIT EXPIRY DATE
AZOXYSTROBIN	PER89953	1 DAY	31.10.2024
BOSCALID + PYRACLOSTROBIN (PRISTINE®)	PER82986	3 DAYS	31.08.2024
CHLOROTHALONIL	PER91300	28 DAYS	30.09.2026
COPPER PRESENT AS COPPER HYDROXIDE OR CUPRIC HYDROXIDE	PER84176	1 DAY	31.12.2025
DITHIANON	PER82601	21 DAYS	31.12.2026
MANCOZEB	PER13958	7 DAYS	31.08.2025
PROPICONAZOLE	PER14740	3 DAYS	31.10.2024