

A **Biosecurity Queensland** spokesperson provided a response to *Background Briefing's* questions.

### **Yellow crazy ants**

Since the initial detection in 2001, infestations of yellow crazy ants have been detected at more than 30 sites in Queensland including Cairns, Townsville, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Caboolture and Brisbane.

With yellow crazy ants also found in the Northern Territory and Christmas Island, there has never been a national eradication program and until recently Queensland has been largely tackling this pest on its own.

Since 1988, there have been at least 160 detections of yellow crazy ants nationally, which threaten the long term success of any eradication program.

Under these circumstances, state-wide eradication of yellow crazy ants is not considered feasible. Biosecurity Queensland has focussed its efforts on providing information to the community on identification and control of yellow crazy ants.

Biosecurity Queensland is supporting the Wet Tropics Management Authority yellow crazy ant project with training on the use of Personal Digital Assistant devices to record infestations and track project control efforts into a pest management information system.

Landholders can use chemical products that are registered for control of ants to treat yellow crazy ants found on their property. Landholders also have the option to contact a local pest controller.

### **Myrtle rust**

Biosecurity Queensland did impose movement restrictions on the nursery in December 2010 to control the movement of all plants and to limit the potential spread of myrtle rust.

Myrtle rust produces thousands of spores that are easily spread via wind, contaminated plant material, animals and humans (e.g. on clothing, shoes, equipment).

It was recognised that due to the nature of the disease, myrtle rust cannot be eradicated. The actions undertaken by Biosecurity Queensland have been aimed at slowing the spread of myrtle rust and helping to manage its impacts in Queensland.

Since the initial detection in 2010, Biosecurity Queensland focused on preparing industry and the community for the management of myrtle rust in Queensland.