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## Comvita Statement - Myrtle Rust

Comvita (NZX:CVT) CEO Scott Coulter said the company is gathering information about the myrtle rust situation and it is too soon to speculate on the potential impact on the industry.

“We have been aware of the potential risk of myrtle rust arriving in New Zealand and will work closely with industry as the situation unfolds.”

Mr. Coulter said, “We understand when myrtle rust arrived in Australia in 2010, there were concerns about the impact it might have on honey production, however to date there seems to have been no effect. Our joint venture partner, Australian honey company Capilano (ASX:CZZ), have not been impacted by myrtle rust.

Capilano CEO Dr. Ben McKee said, “We have no evidence of myrtle rust on the *Leptospermum* trees that the bees harvest nectar from, and the trees are in good health. I haven’t seen any affected trees since myrtle rust was found in Australia.”

Mr. Coulter said Comvita is well placed with their Manuka plant breeding programme, to assess tolerance to the disease across the broad genetic pool which they have within their programme.

To reiterate the Ministry for Primary industries (MPI) guidance, if you see myrtle rust, please do not touch it. Take a photo, note its location and notify MPI, 0800 809 966.

Ends

For further information:

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Background information

About Comvita ([www.comvita.co.nz](http://www.comvita.co.nz))

Comvita (NZX : CVT) is a global natural health company committed to the development of innovative products, backed by ongoing investment in scientific research.