

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2007-12
March 29, 2007

SUBJECT: Gladiolus Rust, *Uromyces transversalis* (Thum.)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On February 20, 2007, an inspector with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services submitted a gladiolus leaf sample that was suspected of being infected by gladiolus rust (GR) to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS) National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory (NPGBL) for confirmative diagnostic testing. This sample was collected from a commercial gladiolus production farm in Manatee County, Florida. On February 23, 2007, NPGBL confirmed GR infection in the sample.

The detection of GR in Manatee County represents the first known occurrence of this disease in 2007. In 2006, GR was detected for the first time in the United States at the same gladiolus production farm.

Further survey of the affected production site revealed more GR-infected plants, mostly in plots where cut flowers were already harvested and plants were kept alive for new corm maturation. As a result, USDA issued an Emergency Action Notification (EAN) on March 2, 2007. Most recently, on March 27, 2007, GR was positively identified in a gladiolus sample collected from a nursery in Clewiston, Hendry County, Florida. An EAN is being issued in response to this detection as well.

In response to this situation, APHIS convened a group of GR experts to provide technical support for mitigation and eradication of the rust following the National GR Management Plan for Exclusion and Eradication. This technical group initiated weekly conference calls starting on February 22, 2007.

Gladiolus rust is of plant quarantine importance in Europe and the United States. This fungus primarily attacks hybrid cultivars of gladiolus grown for flower production and could have significant impact if it became established or was transported into greenhouses or nurseries.

If you would like additional information regarding this Federal regulatory program, please contact Staff Officer Dr. Anwar Rizvi at (301) 734-4313.

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