FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION DA-2008-68 October 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Gladiolus Rust, *Uromyces transversalis* (Thum.), Confirmed in San Mateo County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On September 5, 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed gladiolus rust (GR) on samples of gladiolus leaves collected by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) at a residence in San Bruno, San Mateo County, California. The detection of GR in San Mateo County represents the first ever occurrence of this disease in California.

CDFA and APHIS conducted surveys of the area around the detection site from September 15 to 29, 2008. This survey activity revealed many more residential sites with GR infection. In response to these detections, APHIS' National Program Manager for GR commenced conference calls with Regional and field staff to discuss the situation and provided technical support for mitigation and eradication of the rust following the National GR Management Plan for Exclusion and Eradication.

GR is considered to be a pest that is transient: actionable and under eradication in the United States. GR is a quarantine pest for both Europe and the United States. This fungus primarily attacks hybrid cultivars of gladiolus grown for flower production and could have a significant impact if it became established or was transported into greenhouses or nurseries.

GR is indigenous to eastern and southern Africa. It has also been reported in Morocco, areas of southern Europe, areas of South America, Martinique, Australia, and New Zealand, and has recently been intercepted in Mexico. *Uromyces transversalis* is named for the transverse sori that develop across the width of the leaves, as compared to most rusts on monocots whose sori burst through longitudinally along the veins of the leaf.

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

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

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