

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2010-36  
August 20, 2010

SUBJECT: Revocation of Federal Order for Gladiolus Rust Quarantine Area for a Commercial Gladiolus Farm in Hendry County, Florida

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revoking a Federal Order (attached) that established a Gladiolus Rust (*Uromyces transversalis*; GR) quarantine area for an affected commercial gladiolus farm in Hendry County, Florida. The regulatory action was necessary to mitigate the risk of interstate movement of GR, which was confirmed on gladiolus plants in the production fields and packinghouse in early 2008. After following the conditions of the Federal Order and the associated Federal compliance agreement for two production seasons, the commercial farm has remained free of GR. As a result, APHIS is declaring GR eradicated from the regulated area.

GR is considered to be a quarantine pest for Europe and the United States. The fungus primarily attacks hybrid cultivars of gladiolus grown for flower production and if established or transported into greenhouses or nurseries could significantly impact gladiolus crops in the United States. The rust is indigenous to eastern and southern Africa and has been reported in Morocco, areas of southern Europe, Argentina, Brazil, Martinique, Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico. GR is considered to be a pest that is transient, actionable and, in other places in the United States is under eradication. GR is not widely prevalent or distributed within the United States.

If you would like additional information regarding this Federal regulatory program, please contact Dr. Anwar Rizvi, National Program Manager for Gladiolus Rust, at (301) 734-4313.

/s/ Roberta D. Purcell /for

Rebecca A. Bech  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

1 Attachment:  
- Federal Order

**FEDERAL DOMESTIC QUARANTINE ORDER:  
*Gladiolus Rust (Uromyces transversalis)***

The purpose and goal of this Federal Order is to prevent the spread of the plant pest disease *Gladiolus Rust (GR) Uromyces transversalis*, through regulatory authority provided by Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) of June 20, 2000, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States, and also by Section 414 of the PPA, 7 U.S.C. 7714, which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to hold, seize, quarantine, treat, apply other remedial measures to, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any plant, plant pest, plant product, article, or means of conveyance if the Secretary considers it necessary in order to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest that is new to or not known to be widely prevalent or distributed within and throughout the United States.

The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) considers it necessary, in order to prevent the dissemination of GR, to establish restrictions on the interstate movement of GR host material from the quarantined area in Florida as described in this Federal Order.

This Federal Order is necessary in order to prevent further pest dissemination from the premises located at Box 69, County Road 833, Clewiston, Florida 33440. APHISPPQ and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (FDACS DPI) have recently observed *Gladiolus* sp. plants, cut flowers, corm production plants and/or leaves at this premises that are infected with GR. Interstate movement of regulated articles originating from this premise may only be allowed if the requirements of this Federal Order are met in full and if the owner or agent of the premises enters into a compliance agreement as required by this Order.

GR is not widely prevalent or distributed within and throughout the United States. Therefore, in order to prevent the further dissemination and interstate movement of *Gladiolus* sp. plants, cut flowers, corms and leaves infected with GR from the described quarantined area, all *Gladiolus* sp. plants, cut flowers, corms and leaves originating from the quarantined area are restricted from moving interstate from the farm premises. Interstate movement will be permitted only if the following measures are put into place and are completely complied with prior to the further shipment of *gladiolus* plant material (corms, stems, flowers, leaves, etc.) from the premises located at Box 69 County Road 833 Clewiston, Florida 33440.

This Federal Order imposes quarantine on less than the entire State of Florida, for GR.

## **I. QUARANTINE FOR GR (*Uromyces transversalis*) DISEASE**

1. Quarantined Area. The following areas are quarantined due to the presence of GR.

Florida:

The premises located at Box 69, County Road 833, Clewiston, Florida 33440, and Hendry County, Florida.

2. Restricted Articles.

All live, green and/or infected or exposed gladiolus plants and plant parts (including corms, stems, flowers, leaves, etc.).

The Administrator may prohibit the interstate movement of restricted gladiolus plant material unless it has been grown, produced, manufactured, stored, or handled in a manner that, in the judgment of the Administrator, prevents the restricted article from presenting a risk of spreading GR.

3. Requirements for Interstate Movement. In order to be eligible to move interstate from the quarantined area, regulated articles must meet all of the following requirements:

A. Measures in the Field. While in the field, all harvested gladiolus material must be dipped in Phyton 27® following the manufacturer's recommended concentration and duration of treatment. The fungicide must be in contact with all the outer leaves of the gladiolus stems for the manufacturer's specified duration.

B. Packinghouse procedures. All leaves of the plant must be stripped from each individual stem, including the top two immature leaves that are located below the lowest flower on the stem. After all leaf material has been completely removed, stems are grouped into bundles which must be dipped in Phyton 27® following the manufacturer's recommended concentration and duration of treatment. Bundled stems must be dipped such that all stems in the bundle are immersed in the fungicide solution from the end of the stem to the base of the lowest flower bract, ensuring that all stems in bundle are adequately exposed to the fungicide for the manufacturer's specified duration. All stripped leaf material must be disposed of either by burial or burning, within 24 hours.

C. Packinghouse Inspection. All gladiolus plant material must be examined by inspectors and certified by those inspectors to be free of GR symptoms prior to movement from the packing house.

1. Bundled plant stems, free of all leaves (processed bundles), will be examined and GR determinations made by examining all stems within the bundle for symptoms.

2. If the inspector finds GR symptoms on any plant material, the entire processed bundle must be destroyed either by burial or burning, within 24 hours.

3. If GR is found during packinghouse inspection, the inspection table, any related equipment and surfaces, and the personnel conducting the leaf stripping operation must be disinfected by thorough application of a 10% bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solution or 70% ethyl alcohol solution prior to reuse.

D. Compliance Agreements. The owner of the business of the designated quarantined area must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS to facilitate the interstate movement of regulated articles in accordance with all of the requirements of this Federal Order and this specific subpart, subject to monitoring and audits by the State, Territory, Commonwealth, or APHIS regulatory official. Such persons must agree to handle, pack, process, treat, and move regulated articles in accordance with this Federal Order. Compliance agreements may be arranged by contacting a local office of Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (listed in local telephone directories), or by contacting the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Emergency and Domestic Programs, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1236.

*Cancellation*. The compliance agreement described above may be cancelled orally or in writing by an inspector if the inspector finds that the person who entered into the compliance agreement has failed to comply with all of the requirements of this Federal Order and this specific subpart. If the person is given notice of cancellation orally, written confirmation of the decision and the reasons for it must be provided as promptly as circumstances allow. If the compliance agreement is cancelled, the owner of the business designated as the quarantined area may appeal the decision in writing to the Administrator within 10 days after receiving the written notification. The appeal must state all of the facts and reasons upon which the person relies to show that the compliance agreement was wrongfully cancelled. The Administrator must grant or deny the appeal, in writing, stating the reasons for the decision, as promptly as circumstances allow. If there is a conflict as to any material fact, a hearing will be held to resolve the conflict. Rules of practice concerning the hearing will be adopted by the Administrator.

4. Definitions.

Inspector. Any person authorized by the Administrator of APHIS to enforce the requirements of this Order.