

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2012-25
July 3, 2012

SUBJECT: APHIS Establishes a New Regulated Area in Florida for Giant African Snail
(*Lissachatina fulica*, formerly *Achatina fulica*)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is notifying stakeholders of a new quarantine area for giant African snail (GAS) in Miami-Dade County, Florida. On May 25, program personnel detected GAS in a residential area outside of the regulated areas in Miami. The revised quarantine map and description of the new regulated area are posted on the APHIS GAS web page at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gas/index.shtml.

In September 2011, APHIS confirmed the detection of GAS, *Lissachatina fulica*, in a residential area of Miami, Florida. GAS is one of the most damaging snails in the world because it is known to consume at least 500 different plants including vegetables, fruits, and ornamental crops.

Since the initial detection, APHIS has actively worked with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to conduct survey, regulatory, control, and outreach activities within the affected residential areas. APHIS and FDACS continue surveying for GAS in nursery stock establishments within the regulated areas. To date, these surveys have been negative for GAS.

For further information, you may contact Robert Balaam, Eastern Regional Program Manager, at (305) 278- 4872, or Andrea Simao, National Program Manager, at (301) 851-2067.

/s/ Osama El-Lissy *for*

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