

FOR INFORMATION

DA-2006-16

April 20, 2006

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

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY  
OFFICIALS

On April 7, 2006, Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Plant Pathologist, Eloise M. Kilgore, identified Gladiolus Rust, *Uromyces transversalis* (Thum.), on leaves of cut gladiolus flowers coming from Florida. Dr. Mary Palm, USDA National Mycologist, confirmed this initial identification. On April 11, 2006, PPQ authorities in Florida informed State officials and the gladiolus producer in Florida, regarding the find of gladiolus rust on cut flowers shipped to Hawaii from Florida. On April 12, 2006, Florida Department of Plant Industries personnel visited the grower and found rust-infected plants in much of the facility. Also on April 12, 2006, Dr. Palm received from Hawaii a sample of infected gladiolus leaves and confirmed that the organism was *Uromyces transversalis*.

Trace-back of the interception in Hawaii, carried out on April 13, 2006, indicated that the rust-infected gladiolus originated from a gladiolus production farm, located in Manatee County, Florida. On April 14, 2006, Dr. Palm received for diagnosis seven infected samples from the Florida production farm. All were diagnosed positive for *Uromyces transversalis*. On this same date, an Emergency Action Notice was issued by PPQ in Florida. This is the first find of gladiolus rust in Florida. A group of Subject Mater Experts is being convened to provide technical support for mitigation and eradication of the rust. In addition, local survey and trace-back activities are underway.

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. This rust is apparently indigenous to eastern and southern Africa. It has also been reported from Morocco, southern Europe (questionably from France and Spain, possibly established in Italy, Malta, and Portugal), South America (Argentina and Brazil), Martinique, Australia, and New Zealand, and has recently been intercepted from 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.

**Paul R. Eggert for**

Richard L. Dunkle

Deputy Administrator

Plant Protection and Quarantine