

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2008-18
May 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Establishment of Gladiolus Rust (GR) Quarantine for Commercial Gladiolus Farms in Hendry County, Florida

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a Federal Order today that establishes quarantine for GR over affected commercial gladiolus farms in Clewiston, Florida and Hendry County, Florida. This action is necessary to prevent the interstate spread of GR, *Uromyces transversalis*, which was recently confirmed among gladiolus plants, cut flowers, corms, and leaves originating from the affected farms. GR was found at the same commercial farms in 2006 and 2007.

While GR is considered to be a pest that is transient: actionable and under eradication in the United States, GR is not widely prevalent or distributed within the United States. In order to prevent the further dissemination and interstate movement of all live, green and/or infected or exposed gladiolus plants and plant parts, including corms, stems, flowers, and leaves from the quarantine area, all of these host articles are restricted from moving interstate from the affected farms. Interstate movement will be permitted only if the following measures are put into place prior to shipment of host materials: while in the field, all harvested gladiolus materials must be dipped in Phyton 27® following the manufacturer's recommendations; all gladiolus leaves must be stripped and stems must be again dipped in Phyton 27® at the packing house; all gladiolus plant material must be inspected and certified free of all leaves and GR symptoms prior to movement from the packing house; and persons engaged in growing and handling these regulated articles for interstate movement must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS to facilitate such movement in accordance with all of the requirements of the Federal Order.

GR is a plant disease of quarantine significance 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 indigenous to eastern and southern Africa and has been reported in Morocco, areas of southern Europe, Argentina, Brazil, Martinique, Australia, New Zealand, and Mexico.

The attached Federal Order is effective immediately.

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

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for
Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment

**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 in the State of Florida. APHIS-PPQ 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.