

**Finding of No Significant Impact For
Eradication Program for Gladiolus Rust in
Hendry County, Florida
Environmental Assessment
August 2008**

In August, 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzed potential environmental consequences of eradicating Gladiolus Rust from Zipperer Farms in Hendry County, Florida. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/glad_rust.shtml or from:

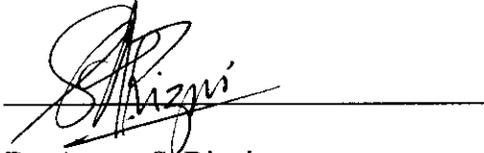
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs Emergency Management
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The EA analyzed two alternatives consisting of (1) no quarantine and eradication treatments for Gladiolus Rust and (2) a program consisting of quarantine and eradication measures to prevent the establishment and spread of Gladiolus Rust (preferred alternative). The Notice of Availability for the EA was published on August 22, 2008 and the comment period was 30 days. No comments were received.

APHIS' finding of no significant impact for this action is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. The EA evaluated the potential environmental effects of the quarantine and eradication measures on human health and nontarget organisms, including the use of pesticides. The treatment area is an established farm location where minimal wildlife is present. Quarantine activities, including restrictions on interstate movement, are expected to have minimal environmental impacts. Although the proposed pesticide treatments for the eradication portion of the program would take place in an area with a high water table, pesticide label restrictions and correct use of products prevent pesticides from entering the surrounding water environments, including the water table. The proposed use of pesticides is for a non-food application so there is no risk of exposure to humans from the proposed action through consumption of any treated materials. Correct use of pesticide products according to applicable label directions, including the use of personal protective equipment, results in minimal risk to pesticide applicators.

APHIS has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as required by the Endangered Species Act. FWS has concurred that the proposed program is not likely to adversely affect the Florida panther, the Audubon's crested caracara, or their critical habitat.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be completed.



Dr. Anwar S. Rizvi
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Date