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


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

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine