FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2015-20

MAY 13, 2015

Subject: APHIS Revises Response to Domestic Detections of Gladiolus Rust caused by
Uromyces transversalis

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effectively immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the
domestic response requirements for the rust pathogen Uromyces transversalis, commonly called
gladiolus rust (GR), which was first detected in the United States in 2006. In 2007, APHIS and
its state partners began taking action in accordance with the Gladiolus Rust National Eradication
and Management Plan whenever the pest was detected in commercial growing areas, domestic
commerce, and residential areas.

Based on the current distribution of the disease and its known biology and plant hardiness zones
in the United States, the pathogen has spread to the limit of its natural range. Given these facts,
APHIS will no longer take domestic action, or require others to take action, when GR is found in
commercial growing areas, domestic commerce, or in residential areas. In addition, APHIS will
initiate rule-making to update the import requirements for GR. APHIS will continue to regulate
other gladiolus rust pathogens that are not known to occur in the United States, including
Puccinia gladioli, Puccinia mecellanii, Uredo gladioli-buettneri, Uromyces gladioli, and
Uromyces nyikensis.

APHIS is committed to supporting industry, stakeholders, and cooperators in the development of
pest management strategies to control the disease in the most effective way. By ceasing domestic
response actions for GR, APHIS and its partners will be able to focus resources on other, more
serious pest threats while removing the burdensome requirements for domestic growers,
homeowners, and cooperators who were often forced to destroy infected plants. GR can be
controlled with best management practices, and APHIS will continue to serve as a technical
resource and will cooperate with other USDA agencies, state departments of agriculture, and the
gladiolus industry to control GR.

For additional details on the GR Program, please call National Policy Manager Lynn Evans-
Goldner at 301-851-2286.

[Signature]

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