

PEST: Gladiolus Rust (*Uromyces transversalis*)

BASIC PROFILE: GR is a fungal disease that attacks gladiolus. It first appeared in the U.S. in 2006 in Florida. It originated in southern and eastern Africa and poses a significant economic threat to U.S. gladiolus production. Symptoms of GR are small, yellowish- or yellow-orange colored pustules which develop on either side of the foliage or, less commonly, appear on flowers. Pustules tend to form in transverse lines across the foliage, which is one character used for visual identification in the field. Spores can travel on the wind or spread through movement of infected plants or cut flowers and foliage. This is especially true for cut flowers entering the U.S from Central and South American countries. Control measures rely heavily on fungicide treatments for both control and for prevention purposes.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF may conduct periodic visual surveys for GR when reports of possible interceptions arise. This includes checking origin paperwork. LDAF also will look for GR during routine nursery grower, NSD and florist / cut flower dealer inspections. If found, immediate quarantine action should be taken, including stop sales and quarantine restrictions on plants and facilities. USDA has established federal restrictions on gladiolus material moving across state lines from infested areas. Inspections and treatments of such material are required under federal oversight.



Other Photos by Wayne Dixon and Jeffrey Lotz,
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