

PEST ALERT! Quarantine rust!

Gladiolus rust: *Uromyces transversalis*

- *Uromyces transversalis*, cause of Gladiolus rust, is considered of plant quarantine importance in Europe and the United States. This fungus attacks principally hybrid cultivars of Gladiolus grown for flower production and could have significant impact if the fungus became established or is transported into greenhouses or nurseries.
- This rust is apparently indigenous to eastern and southern Africa. It has also been reported from Morocco, France, and Spain, Italy, Malta, Portugal, South America (Argentina, Brazil), Martinique, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico
- Gladiolus rust was intercepted, for the first time in Miami in 2005 from Brazil by DHS/CBP officers on *Gladiolus* sp., Again, on same commodity, on January 03, 2012 it was intercepted from Costa Rica, where the disease has not been reported !



- Symptoms: The rust is characterized by orange pustules that form on the leaf surface. Pustules can also form on the inflorescence and flower spike of the plant. *Uromyces transversalis* is named for the transverse sori that develop across the width of the leaves, as compared to most rusts on monocots plants whose sori burst through longitudinally along the veins of the leaf. (Photos H.Ruiz)

BE ON THE LOOK OUT!