

Gladiolas

Gladiolas come in a wide spectrum of colors from white, yellow, gold, peach, orange and all shades of pink, mauves, lavenders, reds and deep scarlet. There is even a green one.

Their spires reach at least three feet. Gladiolas look best planted in groups rather than in a row. We also recommend planting gladiola corms in weekly successions to prolong blooming time.

Plant gladiola corms with the points up about 4 to 5 inches deep, and 6 inches apart after the danger of frost is past. Improve your soil with Canadian peat moss and compost prior to planting. Remember to mix super phosphate into the soil 2 inches beneath the corm.

While gladiolas grow, a new corm is formed on top of the one you planted, and the old one withers. As you cut the flowers for arrangements or at the end of the blooming season, be sure to leave the foliage undisturbed. After the foliage dies down, the corms can be dug up, the old withered corm removed, and the new corms dried and stored in vermiculite in closed paper bags. Be sure that they are kept in a frost-free, but cool (40-45 degrees) location over winter.

Gladiola nanus (Baby Glads)

Shorter and smaller flowers, baby glads grow to a height of 20-25 inches, and are most effective when planting at least 10 corms per square foot. Planting depth is 4 inches, and they can be left in the ground over winter.