GLADIOLUS
Their
Culture and Care in North Dakota
Staking

The better modern varieties of glads are self-supporting and do not need stakes for support.

When to Cut Blooms

For home use, cut glad blooms when the lowest floret is fully open. This will make it possible to have the blooms look their best indoors for the longest time possible. A sharp pointed, narrow bladed knife is well suited for cutting blooms. Not more than two leaves should be removed with the spike. Stab the stem to weaken it and break the stem off. This avoids destroying leaves.

Harvesting the Corms

When glad corms are mature, the leaves begin to turn brown. This will probably occur during the first two weeks in October in most of North Dakota. The proper stage of browning is difficult to describe. Some of these rules will have to be supplemented by experience.

A spading fork is suitable for loosening the corms in most gardens. After they have been loosened they can be pulled carefully and piled. Cut off tops as close to bulb as possible. Burn the old tops at once for sanitary reasons.

After the corms are topped and put in mesh or burlap bags, they should be stored at 70 degrees or above for curing. Cure them at this temperature for about a month. Remove the old bulb and the roots before storing. Save the bulblets if you wish to carry them on. Store the cured corms in paper bags and write the name of the variety on each bag. Leave the top of the bag open to permit circulation of air. Any good root cellar makes a good place to store glads. Forty degrees F. is the most desirable temperature. Get as close to it as you can.

Insects and Diseases

The worst insect affecting the gladiolus is the gladiolus thrip. This is a very small brown, or black and white fly-like insect. Leaves showing thrip injury show white and silver streaks on the foliage or bud sheaths. Flower buds injured by thrips are streaked and don't open properly.
GLADIOLUS

Prepared by
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Soils and Sites

Any good garden soil is suitable for growing gladiolus. The more fertile the soil, the better the flowers will be.

Even though gladiolus are not left in the ground over winter, it is important that they be planted where water does not stand during the early spring. Glads like well-drained soil. They like full sun. Keep them away from trees or shrubs that might shade them or compete for soil moisture.

Locate your glads where they have protection from strong winds. Changing the location of the glad planting every other year will reduce the possibility of disease infection. Proper treating or dipping of the bulbs, however, is more important in controlling diseases of glads than any system of rotation could be.

Planting

May 1 is a good average date to plant glads in North Dakota. Better still, make several plantings April 15 to June 1. The gardener must be governed by variations in the season.

Glads should be planted 28 to 36 inches between rows and corms 6 inches apart in the row. Small bulbs may be set as close as 3 inches in the row.

Glad corms, or bulbs as they are commonly, but wrongly known, should be set from 3 to 6 inches deep, depending on the size of corm. The larger the corm, the deeper it should be set.

Cultivation

Cultivate the planting often enough to control the weeds and keep the soil in good physical condition. Shallow cultivation is necessary after the plants are well up in order to avoid cutting off the fine feeding roots which are near the surface.
Spraying of glads in the field must be started when the plants are 6 to 8 inches high. This spraying must be repeated once a week or after each rain to be effective. A real fine mist is essential. Tartar emetic spray is the best spray material developed to date for the control of thrips on glads in the field.

**How to Prepare Tartar Emetic Solution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TARTAR EMETIC</td>
<td>2 TABLESPOONFULS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROWN SUGAR</td>
<td>6 TABLESPOONFULS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER</td>
<td>3 GALLONS</td>
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Naphthalene flakes can be used to fumigate corms in storage. One ounce of flakes will fumigate 100 corms. Close the containers after adding the flakes. Keep the containers closed for 2 or 3 weeks and then remove the flakes. (Caution: Naphthalene flakes can only be used after corms are well cured and must be removed before any bud nodes or sprouts appear. The storage temperature will have to be above 60 degrees F. if the flakes are to vaporize.)

**Varieties**

Hundreds of varieties have been named. Here are a dozen that may not be the best but are good enough for a start:

- **SNOW PRINCESS** - white - midseason
- **MAID OF ORLEANS** - white - early - midseason
- **BEACON** - pink - late - midseason
- **PEGGY LOU** - pink - early - midseason
- **PICARDY** - pink - late - midseason
- **SMILING MAESTRO** - salmon rose - midseason
- **HINDENBURG'S MEMORY** - red - late
- **CHIEF MULTNOMAH** - smokey - late
- **RECADO** - smoky - late
- **VAGABOND PRINCE** - any other color - late
- **GOLD DUST** - yellow - early - midseason
- **BLUE BEAUTY** - blue - midseason

**NOTE:** Mr. George E. Millen, gladiolus grower of Sheyenne, North Dakota has given many helpful suggestions on the subject matter contained in this circular.