



GROWING YOUR GLADIOLI



Common Name: **GLADIOLI**

Botanical Name: Gladiolus x hybrid **Family Name:** Iridaceae

Plant Type: Corm **Size:** 1.5m H x 15cm W

Positioning: Full Sun, Wind Protection **Planting Width:** 10cm **Depth:** 7cm

General Information: An elegant cut flower, Gladioli can be planted late Autumn, Winter and Spring. In cold climates plant the corms after the danger of frost is over. Gladioli flower around 100 days after planting. **Soil:** Well drained light soil is best; improve heavy soils by adding organic matter. Plant corms with flat side facing down. **Watering:** Do not over water however keep moist during the growing period. **Fertilising:** Fertilise prior to planting.

Pruning: Corms can be dug 4–6 weeks after flowering or as soon as the leaves yellow. After digging, store in a cool, dark, dry, airy place and dust with an insecticide to prevent thrips. **Dislikes** frost, fresh animal manure, boggy ground. **Pests:** Aphids and thrips. Dust with an insecticide if thrip damage is noticed (streaking of leaves, damage of flowers), and if problem persists, make sure new bulbs are planted in a different part of the garden. NB: Extreme heat can cause similar symptoms to thrip damage on flowers.

Ideal for tall background colour and perfect cut flowers.

Tips: Pick flowers by taking a knife down along the stem then twisting across the stem at the required length. This method will help ensure that the foliage is left, allowing the bulb to continue growing. For long vase life, flowers should be picked as the first floret opens.