



Gladiolus Planting Guide

About Gladiolus

Gladiolus is a genus of perennial bulbous flowering plants in the Iris family. Sometimes called the Sword Lily, the most common name for these plants is simply gladiolus. The gladiolus flower signifies remembrance. It also expresses infatuation-telling the receiver that they pierce the heart. They are easy to grow and make great cut flowers.

When to Plant

Plant gladiolus bulbs/corms in the spring as soon as the soil has warmed up in March or April.

Where to Plant

While they prefer full sun, gladiolus will still grow well in partial shade. Select rich, soft soil. If the soil is poor, add fertilizer to help stimulate growth.

How to Plant

Gladiolus can be grown in rows or bunches. They will tolerate a little crowding, but will do better if spaced out. We recommend planting the bulbs 4-6 inches deep-secured deep in the ground. Plant about 6 inches apart. If you have bought quite a few, don't plant them all at once. Stagger their planting and you will get a better succession of flowers. Add mulch to help retain water.

Caring for Gladiolus

Once planted, your gladiolus should grow well with little attention, provided the soil stays moist but not water-logged. As they bloom, remove the faded and dying flowers to ensure continuous growth.

If you live in a temperate region, mulch the bulbs deeply with 2.5 inches of compost to give them an insulating duvet over their heads in late autumn.

In colder regions, lift them for the winter-before the first frost. Cut the stems one inch above the corm. Dry them out in a warm, airy location for a couple of weeks, cleaning off excess soil. Remove (by snapping off) and discard the oldest bottom corms from the base of the new corms. Store new corms in any container that receives good circulation. Keep dry and cold. Replant in spring.