

# The Best Gladioli and Their Culture

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**T**HERE is no class of flowers which will give better results with little care and under varied circumstances than the gladiolus. But this does not mean that they will not resent neglect, or repay care and attention. Neither does it mean that they have not their likes and dislikes. The gladiolus has a preference for sod ground, but in small gardens this is, in most cases, impossible. But we merely state the conditions best suited and leave the planter to be guided by the necessities of his environment. The gladiolus does not do well on heavy clay land; the ideal soil is a good sandy loam. It succeeds best on soil that has been made rich the year previous and when planted in such soil will not require any additional fertilizer; but when manure is used it should always be well rotted and used sparingly.

Prepare the bed in the usual way, digging the ground as deeply as can be done with the spade or fork, making it thoroughly fine all the way through. Plant the bulbs about four inches apart each way, covering to a depth of four or five inches in light soil, and half that distance where the soil is somewhat heavy. For a succession of bloom plant at intervals of ten days or two weeks, making the first planting as early in the spring as the ground is in thorough condition for working. Or the bulbs may be planted singly in flower pots in the house and set out when the weather gets fine and warm.

The date of the last planting must be governed by the time it is usual to have fall frosts. In localities where it is usual to have heavy fall frosts about the middle of October, the last planting should not be made after the middle of June. Four months back from the time the first fall frost is expected is the latest date we would recommend for making the

last planting. Always plant the smaller bulbs first, as they will lose their vitality if left too long unplanted, leaving the larger ones for the last planting.

When the foliage appears above ground loosen the surface soil with the hoe and keep it loose throughout the season. This not only admits the air to the roots and prevents evaporation of moisture, but also keeps down weeds. Do not allow them to suffer for water, especially during the blooming period.

If the bloom is heavy, it is advisable to give support either by staking or by strings arranged as follows: Drive stakes in the ground at intervals of every five feet in each direction in such a way as to form a block five feet square, allowing the stakes to project out of the ground from twelve to eighteen inches according to the height the bloom spike is expected to grow. To the top of these fasten a strip of board of sufficient size and strength for the purpose, stretching from one stake to the other. If good stout stakes have been used and driven firmly into the ground good strong twine or wire will answer the purpose of the strip of board. Take a good stout twine and fasten the end to one of the strips, running it between the rows to the other end of the square, bring it back between the next row, and so on until the whole square has been gone over. Then start at the other side and run the string the other way of the bed, knotting firmly at each cross string. This will leave each spike in a perfect square by itself, provided the bulbs were planted at regular intervals.

## The Best Gladioli

Among the lists of plants presented to the Ontario Horticultural Association at its last convention by the committee on plant nomenclature, were lists of the best

fifty, the best twenty-five and the best twelve hybrid gladioli. The list of fifty is published herewith in full. The best twenty-five are indicated by this sign (°), and the best twelve by an asterisk (\*).

\*°Afterglow. — Salmon fawn shade, with pale blue centre; large flowers; massive spike.

Aline. — Pure white, striped crimson; large flower.

\*°America. — Pale delicate pink; large flowers; strong habit.

\*°Augusta. — White with blue anthers; large spike, lateral spikes well developed.

°Attraction. — Deep, rich crimson, white throat; medium grower.

\*°Baron Joseph Hulot. — Deep violet blue; medium flower.

Berlinia. — Shell pink, shaded and flaked darker.

Blanche. — White with purplish rose markings.

°Blue Jay, (Groff's). — Purplish blue with lighter shading.

°Brenchleyensis. — Bright scarlet; large spike; strong grower.

California. — Rosy lavender, lighter markings in throat; large spike.

Canary Bird. — Pleasing shade of yellow, carmine markings at base of petals.

Cardinal. — Dark cardinal scarlet; large showy spikes.

Ceres. — Pure white with purplish rose markings.

Contrast. — Reddish scarlet, white centre.

\*°Dawn, (Groff's). — Pale salmon shaded lighter, suffused with carmine or clarinet on inferior petals.

Dr. Hogg. — White, heavily striped and marked with carmine; large spike.

Eldorado. — Yellow spotted maroon; medium sized flower.

\*°Evolution. — Delicate rose, shaded darker; good spike.

Gen. de Nansouty. — Rich light purple,



A Corner of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where the City Meets the Waters of its Fine Harbor—A City where Tree Planting is Fully Appreciated  
Photograph kindly furnished by Mr. A. B. Warburton, M.P.