

## ✧ The Garden and Lawn. ✧

### THE DEGENERATION OF THE GLADIOLUS.



REFERRING to a recent article on the gladiolus, in which the late Mr. Such is quoted as saying. "Overrich soil and too much moisture, have much to do with the degeneration of this fine flower," one is led to conclude that the gladiolus had been generally subjected to excessive quantities of fertilizer and moisture.

It is common experience that in field culture, where contact with the manure cannot be easily avoided, as in small spaded plots, that the gladiolus does better following a previous crop, for which the ground had been fertilized with stable manure. Now, while no plant is benefited by the application of more food than it can consume, if this food is in the proper condition, it will not use more, nor be injured by it. Excessive moisture should be provided against by drainage.

Now, Mr. Such, speaking in 1880, referred to the Gandavensis section, and that high culture is given as the cause of its degeneration. In 1895 this degeneration is even more pronounced, but we will surely not give high culture as the cause; if so, why is this injurious effect not apparent in all branches of horticulture, as all lines are worked for maximum results.

The gladiolus of to-day is quite different from the gladiolus of 1880, except the section referred to, which has been inbred for years, resulting in so serious an impairment of its vitality, that many varieties will not produce characteristic flowers for two successive reasons. This excessive incrossing is the cause of its degeneration, which is amply proven by contrast with varieties having the least infusion of new blood from species.

During the past season my greatest failure was in Gandavensis, growing on sandy loam manured for the previous season's crop (new hybrids here grew over six feet high). My greatest success in the same section was in a block where the water stood in the drills at planting time, and the soil was never dry.

Well fertilized moist soil, with plenty of atmospheric moisture will produce results obtainable under no other conditions.

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**The Bessarabian Cherry** is a Russian variety that was fruited at the Iowa exp. sta. the past summer. The fruit is as large as the Early Richmond, roundish, irregular and somewhat flattened. The stem is long and slender. Skin a fine, very dark red. Flesh a rich red, somewhat firm, moderately juicy, sub-acid, juice colored. The quality is good, excellent for culinary purposes and the table. The tree is a strong grower, somewhat spreading, with dense foliage, and fruiting the last week in June. The variety is a true ironclad for north Iowa. The trees the past season were a picture of health and vigor. The summer's sun and the winter's storm do not seem to affect it.

—Farm and Home.