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Yard 'n' Garden



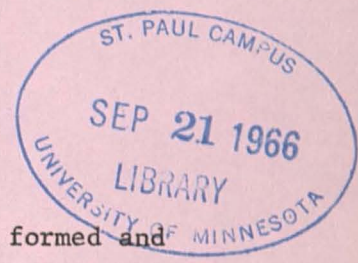
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HARVESTING AND STORAGE OF GLAD CORMS

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Gladiolus can be dug and stored as soon as the new corm is well formed and the tops begin to show signs of maturity. It is not necessary for the tops to be killed by frost before digging the glad corms.

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The glads should be dug very gently by lifting them with either a spading fork or shovel. This is to bring them out of the soil and still preserve the cormel or small bulblets at the base of the newly formed corm. After the glads are dug the tops can be cut back to 4 or 6 inches. These are then placed in a shallow tray or net bag for curing.

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Because the curing temperature should not exceed 95° F., the corms should not be left in full sun but rather placed in a dry, well ventilated, cool location. The garage or porch is an excellent place for curing them.

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After the curing process the glads may be cleaned by removing the mother from the base of the newly formed corm as well as the tops or flower stalk. The corms are then ready to be placed in winter storage.

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The desirable temperature for winter storage is 33 to 40° F. with low humidity. The corms should be placed in well ventilated containers in a location where they can be protected from freezing. A 5 percent DDT dust will protect the corms against thrips.

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Inspect the corms during winter storage to see that no rot diseases are developing or that growth is taking place. Any rotting corms should be removed and the storage conditions should be checked.

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