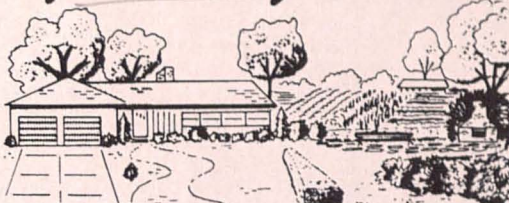


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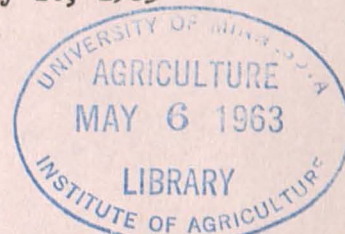
Yard 'n' Garden



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GROWING GLADS

Gladioli are among the most popular summer-blooming tender bulbs in Minnesota. They provide a wealth of bloom for cut flowers. They come in enough vivid and diverse colors to strike the fancy of almost every flower lover.

To grow really good glads, it's necessary to start with healthy bulbs (corms) of choice varieties and to grow them in good soil. A well drained, rich, sandy loam soil is best.

Plant the bulbs or corms 6 inches apart in rows that are 18 to 36 inches apart. Plant the bulbs 4 to 6 inches deep, depending on the size of the corm. You may wish to group the glads in the flower border rather than plant them in rows. Label all varieties for your own reference.

Thrips are the worst enemy of glads. These tiny insects feed on the leaves and flower buds. As a result, the flowers may be mottled and misshapen when they open. A dusting with 5 percent DDT dust or 50 percent wettable powder will control this pest.

Cut spikes as soon as the first florets have opened. Place the cut stem in water immediately and store in a cool place out of the sun. Use a sharp knife and avoid taking too many of the lower leaves. Leaves left on the plant will help to assure a sturdy bulb for next year.

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