

Gladiolus

Planting

Land Preparation :

The soil should be thoroughly ploughed 30-40 cm deep and exposed to sun for at least 25 days. After removing the weeds, the field should be reploughed and levelled. If green manuring crop is taken it should be turned down into the soil at least two months before planting of corms. Animal manure is not recommended, as it is a source of pathogens. Ridges and furrows are prepared as per the spacing recommended.

Size of Corms :

The size of the corms has a positive correlation with the height of the spike and number of florets per spike. Medium-sized corms of 4-5 cm diameter each are selected for planting to obtain quality blooms and uniform flowering. The bigger corms called 'Jumbo', 6-8 cm diameter, are good for getting top quality spikes for exhibition purposes. Smaller corms, of 2-5 cm diameter each can also be planted as flowering stock but corms and cormels having diameter less than 2.5 cm are mainly used as a planting stock in the nursery for development of bigger corms for next year planting.

Time of Planting :

The best time for planting flower size corms is mid-September to mid-October. For getting a succession of flowering spikes from November to May, corms are planted from early September to the end of November, at fortnightly intervals. In hilly regions, the planting time is from March to May so as to get the spikes from June to October.

Method of Planting :

Normally, corms are planted 8-15 cm deep at a spacing of 15-30 cm x 30-40 cm, depending upon the size of corms. A plant population of 15/sq.m or 1,50,000/ha is ideal for quality production of flower spikes and corms. The following are the corm size/density guidelines-

Corm Size (cm)	Number of Corms Gross sq.m
6-8	60-80
8-10	50-70
10-12	50-70
12-14	30-60
14+	30-60

The soil should have adequate moisture before planting so that no watering is required till sprouting. Each cultivar has a fairly definite number of days to bloom, ranging from 60-69 days, 70-74 days, 80-84 days, 91-99 days and 100 days or more for very early, early, early mid-season, mid-season, late and very late cultivars, respectively.