

Gladiolus

Soil & Climate

Soil :

Gladiolus produces the best spikes when grown in deep, well-drained sandy loam soil. A heavy clay soil, with poor drainage, is unfit as the gladiolus root system is easily damaged by excessive soil moisture. However, mixing of 5-8 cm thick layer of river sand along with the manure will make the clay soil cultivable. For best growth they require slightly acidic soil of about pH 5.5 to 6.5 where most of the nutrients become available to the plants.

Climate :

Gladiolus prefers mild climate and sunny situation for their proper growth and flowering. Temperature is considered as a major factor influencing the number of days taken for flowering. Optimum growth of gladioli occurs at temperatures between 10 and 25°C where the night temperature is not above 16°C. However, it can tolerate temperature upto 40°C only if the relative humidity is high and soil moisture levels are optimum. Light levels affect initiation of flower. The period of flower initiation commences when the third leaf becomes visible and ends when the sixth and seventh leaf appears. Quality of flower spikes and yield is better in a long day condition than short days. Minimum illumination of 8 hours/day is essential for most of the gladiolus varieties.