BOTRYTIS ON GLADIOLUS

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Botrytis can attack various portions of a gladiolus plant. It can cause leaf spots, flower spots, stem rot and corm rot.

The fungus, Botrytis gladiolorum, causes infection only under excessively moist conditions with temperatures of 50°-65°F. Fogs or dews provide ideal conditions for infections.

Leaf spots vary in size and shape. They range in size from pinpoint to large and from oval or circular to irregular. Usually the brown or grayish-brown centers are filled with the typical gray masses of spores. The small spots usually have dark brown, reddish brown or red margins. The large spots do not have definite margins. Leaves with large spots may turn yellow and die prematurely.

Stem rot usually occurs at or near the soil surface. Under wet conditions most of the tissue at the soil level may be killed, causing the plant to fall over and die. With moist conditions, the rot is wet and brown. Spores may develop on the dead tissue at the soil line, and up the stem.

Flower spots (also caused by other species) first appear as small, water-soaked spots, usually near the edges of the petals. The spots may enlarge rapidly and become rather slimy. They vary in color from white to brown. Often the spots join together completely destroying the blossom and leave it in a mass of gray, fuzzy spores.

Control: During rainy periods or cool, damp nights in the fall, a rigid spray program (3-4 day intervals) should be followed. Otherwise a 7-10 day schedule should be sufficient.

Materials to use are:

Benomyl 50 WP	1/2 lb./100 gals.
Captan 50 WP	2 lbs./100 gals.
Daconil 75 WP	1-1 1/2 lbs./100 gals.

Botrytis produces myriads of spores.