

GLADIOLUS CORM TREATMENTS

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Gladiolus are affected by many disease problems. These can be caused by fungi, bacteria or viruses. Disease problems can be reduced by following a few guidelines.

Plant gladiolus corms in soil that is well drained. Poorly drained soils enhance bacterial diseases and Botrytis. If possible, plant in a new, clean area every year. A four to five year rotation should be used. If a soil disease problem develops and the corms cannot be planted in other areas, then a soil treatment may be necessary.

Stromatinia Dry Rot has been a problem to Connecticut growers in the past. This disease appears as small circular lesions on corms ranging in size from pinpoint to 1/2 inch in diameter. They are usually reddish brown in color. In the field, the fungus usually attacks the plant at the soil surface. Small black sclerotia may be found on the stem.

For control, apply Botran 75WP in the furrow at planting to provide 1 1/3 lbs. per 1000 feet of row in sufficient water for distribution. Place the corms over the Botran and cover.

Plant only clean, healthy corms. The severely diseased ones should be discarded. Small lesions caused by bacterial scab can be cut out and the corms treated with a fungicide.

Treat corms with one of the following fungicides before planting:

1. Soak corms 20-30 minutes in a suspension of 3 lbs. captan 50WP/100 gallons of water. Drain and plant immediately.

OR

2. Soak corms 20-30 minutes in a suspension of 10 teaspoons folpet 75WP/gallon. Keep suspension agitated. Drain and plant immediately.

3. Soak corms 15-20 minutes in a suspension of Mertect-160 60WP (thiobendazole) 1 1/2 lb./100 gallons. Drain and plant immediately.

4. Dust corms lightly with thiram 5% dust. Plant immediately after treatment.