



*Laura
Nelson
Cannon*

Florida Flower Grower

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Charles A. Conover
Asst. Ornamental Horticulturist

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GULF COAST STATION MIMEO REPORT 56-2 REVISED 8-20-65

FERTILIZING GLADIOLUS

S. S. Woltz, Assistant Horticulturist

No single fertilizer recommendation can be made for gladiolus for all conditions under which they may be grown in Florida. It is probably best, therefore, to describe a general fertilizer program that will insure against serious deficiencies or excesses of the various nutrient elements, and then vary the program to meet local needs.

Generalized Fertilizer Recommendations

The following applications of fertilizer makes up a general program to be varied according to needs, as discussed later in this report.

1. 400 pounds of 4-8-8 containing secondaries, mixed in the bed. Nitrogen sources are specified as 25 percent organic, 40 percent nitrate, and 35 percent ammoniacal. The secondary elements and the percentages to be supplied in the 4-8-8 fertilizer are: 1 percent water soluble MgO, 0.5 percent Fe_2O_3 , 0.5 percent MnO, 0.2 percent CuO, 0.2 percent ZnO, and 0.2 percent B_2O_3 . Notes: If dolomite limestone is used in conditioning the land, omit MgO in applications 1 and 2. ZnO and MnO may be reduced or omitted if furnished in fungicidal sprays regularly. CuO should be omitted in soils with over three years history of copper fertilization.
2. 500 pounds of the above mixture sidedressed and worked into moist soil about 2 weeks after planting.
3. 400 pounds of 5-10-10 containing 0.2 percent B_2O_3 , with nitrogen from inorganic sources, approximately 60 percent ammoniacal and 40 percent nitrate. This is to be applied two weeks after No. 2 above.
4. 400 pounds of the mixture in No. 3, applied two weeks later.

If the grower prefers to use only one fertilizer mixture, he may vary the formula given for applications 1 and 2 by halving the percentages of secondary elements, except for B_2O_3 which should not be reduced. This mixture may then be

applied at the rate of 400 pounds mixed in the bed, followed by three 500 pound side-dressings before flower harvest.