



Research Paper

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Performance of Indian and exotic varieties of gladiolus under eastern Uttar Pradesh conditions

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ABSTRACT : The present investigation was carried out at Horticulture Research Farm, Department of Horticulture, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The experiment was conducted in Randomized Block Design comprised of nineteen varieties of gladiolus viz., Aldiborne, Aldicarb, Candyman, Dhanvantari, Fidelio, Gulal, Her Majesty, High Style, Jessica, Jyotsana, Legend, Nova Lux, Peter Pears, Picoee, Rose Supreme, Summer Rose, Super Star, Swarnima and Urvasi, replicated three times. The mean performance of gladiolus varieties was significant for all the growth and corm characters studied. Data revealed that number of sprouts per hill recorded maximum in cv. Her Majesty, while minimum in var. Aldicarb. Earliest sprouting was recorded with cv. Gulal, while var. Candyman was late in sprouting. Cultivar Rose Supreme exhibited maximum sprouting percentage while minimum value was recorded with var. Aldiborne. Other parameters like length of longest leaf was found in Dhanvantari, width of longest leaf was found maximum with cv. Fidelio and minimum with var. Gulal. Difference was also reported in corms characters, where maximum weight of corms per plant and maximum diameter of corm was registered with cv. Rose Supreme followed by cv. Legend. Maximum number of corms per plant was observed with cvs. Aldiborne and Gulal followed by cv. Swarnima. However, maximum number of cormels per hill was registered with cv. Super Star followed by cvs. Peter Pears and Legend. Maximum weight of cormels per plant was observed with cv. Picoee which was statistically significant to all the cultivars.

KEY WORDS : Gladiolus, Varieties, Growth, Corms

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Gladiolus is one of the most popular bulbous flower grown in many parts of the world. It has a long and noble history. The latin word 'Gladius' means sword and hence it is often called as 'sword lily' because of the shape of its leaves. The gladiolus is a romantic flower as it signifies remembrance and it also expresses infatuation. The roots of the gladiolus plants were thought to be an aphrodisiac. But whether romantic or war like or quak medicine, the gladiolus remains as a popular garden flower, an old fashioned one that is equally at home in a cottage garden or in something more modernistic. This flower crop possesses a great potential for export market, to European countries especially during winter. It is also a popular decorative plant, for use in herbaceous borders, bedding and for growing in pots and bowls. India has suitable agro-climatic conditions for gladiolus

cultivation, it is commercially cultivated in West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Delhi. In the eastern states like Tripura, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland, this flower has established itself as a commercial proposition. There is a sizeable area under glad in Jammu-Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat also. Gladiolus is very rich in its varietal wealth and every year there is an addition of new varieties; hence varietal evaluation becomes necessary to find out suitable variety for a particular region. Improvement of any crop is a continuous process and in gladiolus also there is scope to improve the existing cultivars or genotypes. To create demand for cut flower in the fast growing cities of Northern transitional tract, introduction and popularization is also needed. Any attempt made to encourage cut flower production in the region