

# Specific Crop Treatments

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## **Gladiolus**

*Gladioli*, Iridaceae, Sword Lily

Genus: *Gladiolus*

Family: *Iridaceae*

Origin: *Africa*

### **Grower Recommendations**

Gladiolus are ethylene sensitive and benefit from an anti-ethylene treatment such as EthylBloc®. Ethylene will cause fading, wilting and translucent petals of the florets. To protect flowers from damage, treat flowers with an anti-ethylene product as soon as possible after harvest. After cutting, place flower stems in a solution of Hydraflor/100 for 1 hour (or up to overnight at 34-38F). Transfer stems to a solution of one of Floralife Professional formulas for storage. Please contact Floralife for specifics.

### **Wholesaler/Retailer Recommendations**

#### **Buying Tips:**

- *Ask:* Has product been pretreated with a commercial anti-ethylene product? Has the product been stored and under what conditions?
- *Avoid:* Stems with florets that are brown or shriveled.
- Purchase spikes that have a few open florets.

#### **Processing:**

Rinse stems of any dirt or debris. Remove foliage below water level. Re-cut stems, preferably under clean water.

#### **Pretreatment:**

If gladiolus have not been treated with an anti-ethylene product, treat them with a commercial anti-ethylene product such as soon as possible. If the flowers have been properly treated with an anti-ethylene product, use one of Floralife's hydration solutions to promote water uptake and hydration. This treatment will help increase bud opening, decrease flower wilting and helps keep flower stems free flowing.

There are two Floralife Hydraflor® products to consider:

- 1.) Hydraflor®/100: A concentrate, generally recommended for maximum results, especially with hard-to-hydrate flowers. The treatment is usually for one half hour at room temperature.
- 2.) Floralife Quick Dip® : A ready-to-use version which requires no mixing or measuring. This quick one second dip may be more suitable for use in retail flower shops.

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## **Gladiolus** (continued)

### **Holding Solution:**

Use fresh flower food at recommended rate: Use Floralife® Crystal Clear™, Floralife® Professional or Clear Professional, or depending on water test results, Floralife® Original, Special Blend Hard Water® or Special Blend Pure Water®.

*To have water tested, send a plastic quart bottle of your water to: Floralife, Inc., 751 Thunderbolt Drive, Walterboro, SC, 29488, Attn: Laboratory.* Hold flowers at room temperature for 1-2 hours prior to storage in cooler and usage in design work. Leave at room temperature to promote floret development. As a finishing touch to any floral design, spray Floralife FloralMist® over entire project.

### **Storage:**

Place gladiolus in a 34-38°F cooler with 80-90% humidity.

### **Cleaning:**

Use Floralife Formula D.C.D.™ to clean buckets, vases, coolers, etc. D.C.D. is specifically formulated to kill microbes over an extended period.

### **Customer Satisfaction:**

Always provide a packet of a Floralife® Brand Fresh Flower Food with all your flower sales. Five gram packets treat one pint of water. Ten gram packets treat one quart/liter of water.

### **Troubleshooting:**

#### **Problem:**

Flower fading and/or translucent

#### **Reason/Solution:**

Can be exposure to ethylene and/or high temperatures. Make sure that a proper anti-ethylene treatment is performed.

Failure of remaining florets to open

Possibly stored too long; exposed to extreme temperature or low humidity; kept out of solution for extended periods; or harvested too early. Check on harvest date and shipping/storage conditions. Make sure to recut stems under water and use one of Floralife's Fresh Flower Foods to encourage maximum uptake.

Petal burning

Gladiolus are fluoride sensitive. Water may have high concentration of fluoride. Flower food may minimize the effect.

Tip curvature

Gladiolus exhibit negative geotropism (*bend away from gravity*). Store spikes upright.