Byzantine Gladiola

Gladiolus communis 'Byzantinus'



Byzantine Gladiola flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

An exciting smaller gladiola that displays stunning pink blooms with cream centers and violet edges; bloom time is late spring into summer; may not always need staking, but should be sheltered from wind

Ornamental Features

Byzantine Gladiola features showy spikes of pink flowers with creamy white eyes and violet edges along the stems from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive sword-like leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Byzantine Gladiola is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Byzantine Gladiola is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Byzantine Gladiola will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Byzantine Gladiola is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.