



A Christmas Favourite

GLADIOLI

Botanical name: Gladiolus hybrida

Family: Iridaceae

Common Names: Gladdies, Spear Lily, Sword Lily

Country of Origin: South Africa

Available: All Year

Stem Length: 30 to 100cm

They may not be a top seller in Europe, but gladiolus is a flower with tremendous popularity in Australia, particularly around Christmas time. Consisting of large spikes up to 100cm long bearing up to 10 or more flowers, gladioli can be a striking addition to large arrangements. They come in white, pink, red, purple, orange, yellow, and are one of the few green flowers. Flowers open from the bottom up. There are also smaller scented forms, called the Nanus group or Painted Ladies, as they may have striped flowers. The large flowered types form the Grandiflorus group.

Gladiolus is commonly grown as a field crop in Queensland in winter and Victoria and NSW in spring/summer.

Types: Grandiflorus, Nanus.

Interesting Facts and Myths

The name 'Gladiolus' comes from the Latin for the "small sword" the Romans used to conquer most of western Europe, in reference to the shape of the leaves. In ancient and not so ancient times, mashed gladiolus bulbs were used to draw out thorns and splinters and reduce infection. It was also long believed that dried seed pods that were crushed and added to goats milk was effective against colic.

In the Language of Flowers, Gladiolus means 'Generosity', or 'I'm Sincere'.

Dame Edna Everage, housewife megastar, throws gladdies out into the audience at the end of each show. These flowers were very popular in the suburbs of Melbourne in the 50s and 60's and have enjoyed a resurgence partly because of the Dame's patronage. Red varieties are popular at Christmas time due to the red flowers and green foliage.

When Buying Look for:

- The bottom two flowers should be showing strong colour and be partly open;
- A further 5 flowers up the spike should be showing colour;
- No signs of petal damage or creases.
- Bent spike tips are not a problem;
- Avoid spikes with brown marks or stripes on the sheaths covering the flowers and buds.

Flower Care

1. Keep cool at all times.
2. Strip leaves from the lower half of each stem and wash any dirt off.
3. Recut at least 4 cm off each stem with sharp secateurs and place in water immediately. Gladiolus is often transported dry so cut off twice as much off the end of each stem as you normally would.
4. Preservative is essential – the sugar contained within a preservative will help buds to open.
5. Replace water every day.
6. Gladiolus tips bend upwards, and as they are often transported flat spike tips can be crooked. They will bend back after a few days in an upright position, or you can snip the tips off.
7. Mildly sensitive to ethylene. Keep them away from fruit, car exhausts and cigarette smoke.

THIS WEEK'S PRICES

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE	PREMIUM PRICE
ACHILLEA	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
AGERATUM	10	\$3.00 TO \$3.50	
ALLIUM - GIANT	PER STEM	\$4.50 TO \$6.00	
ALLIUM - MINI	5	\$3.50	
ALLIUM - DRUMSTICK	PER STEM	\$5.00	
ALSTROEMERIA	SML - 7, LGE - 10	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
AMARANTHUS	10	\$6.00 TO \$8.50	
ANTHURIUM	PER STEM	\$1.50 TO \$3.50	
ARABS EYES	5	\$2.00 TO \$3.50	
ARUM LILIES	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.50	
BANKSIA - BAXTERI	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.50	
BANKSIA - COCCINEA	5	\$5.00	
BANKSIA - HOOKERIANA	PER STEM	\$1.60	
BANKSIA - MENZIESII	PER STEM	\$1.40 TO \$1.80	
BANKSIA - SPECIOSA	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.00	
BILLY BUTTONS	20	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
BLUSHING BRIDE	5	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
BOUVARDIA	7-12	\$4.00 TO \$7.00	
BRUNIA	10	\$6.00 TO \$10.00	
CALENDULA	10	\$2.00	
CALLA LILY	10	\$6.00 TO \$7.00	
CAMPANULA (CANTERBURY BELLS)	10	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
CARNATION HEADS	BOX	\$10.00 TO \$15.00	
CARNATION - MICRO	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.50	
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$3.00	
CARNATION - SPRAY		\$3.50 TO \$4.00	
CARNATION - CHINESINI	10-15	\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$2.50	
CARNATION - SIM		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
CELOSIA - COCKSCOMB	5	\$4.00 TO \$7.00	
CELOSIA - PLUME	5	\$5.00	
CHINCERINCHEE	5	\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
CHRYSANTHEMUM - DISBUD	5	\$6.50 TO \$8.50	
CHRYSANTHEMUM - FIELD		\$2.50 TO \$4.50	
CHRYSANTHEMUM - GLASSHOUSE	5-7	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
DAISY - SHASTA		\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
DELPHINIUM - GIANT	5	\$6.00 TO \$9.00	
DELPHINIUM - BUTTERFLY	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.50	
EASTER DAISY		\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
EREMURUS	10	\$7.00 TO \$11.00	
ERICA - YELLOW & PINK	10	\$4.50 TO \$6.00	
ERICA - GREEN	5	\$5.00 TO \$5.50	
ERIOSTEMON - WHITE	5-7	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
ERIOSTEMON - PINK	5-7	\$5.50	
ERYNGIUM (SEA HOLLY)		\$7.50 TO \$8.50	
FLANNEL FLOWER	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
FREESIA	10	\$4.00 TO \$4.50	
GARDENIA (HEADS ONLY)	BOX OF 6	\$10.00 TO \$15.00	
GARDENIA	7-10	\$15.00	
GELEZNOWIA (YELLOW BELLS)	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
GERANIUM	5	\$4.00	
GERBERA	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
GERBERA - MINI	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
GLADIOLI	10	\$8.00 TO \$12.00	
GLORIOSA LILY	3	\$5.00 TO \$13.00	
GODETIA	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.00	
GOLDEN ROD (SOLIDAGO)	10	\$2.50 TO \$4.00	
GYMEA LILIES	PER STEM	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
GYPSOPHILA - STANDARD		\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
GYPSY		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
HELICONIA	5	\$6.00	
HELICONIA CLAW	PER STEM	\$4.00 TO \$7.50	
HELICONIA SEXY	PER STEM	\$7.50 TO \$10.00	
HIPPEASTRUM	5	\$6.50 TO \$14.00	
HYACINTH		\$3.00 TO 6.00	
HYDRANGEA	5	\$4.00 TO \$7.00	
IRIS	10	\$4.50 TO \$6.50	
IRIS - BEARDED	5	\$3.50	
ISOPOGON	10	\$4.00 TO \$4.50	
KALE	PER STEM	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
KALMIA	5	\$5.00 TO \$8.00	
KANGAROO PAW - STANDARD	10	\$6.00 TO \$7.00	
KANGAROO PAW - BLACK		\$8.00 TO \$9.00	
LAVENDER		\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON	5	\$2.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON - DISCOLOUR	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON - GALAPINI	5	\$4.50	
LEUCADENDRON - SAFARI SUNSET	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON - SILVAN RED	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON - SILVER TREE		\$3.00	
LEUCOSPERMUM - REFLEXUM	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
LIATRIS	10	\$7.50 TO \$9.50	

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE	PREMIUM PRICE
LILAC	10	\$6.00 TO \$7.50	
LILY - ASIATIC	5	\$2.00 TO \$3.50	
LILY - LONGIFLORUM	5	\$5.00 TO \$9.00	
LILY - ORIENTAL	5	\$6.00 TO 10.00	
LILY - LA	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
LIMONIUM - EMILE	10	\$3.50 TO \$4.50	
LIMONIUM - MISTY	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LIMONIUM - STATICE	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.50	
LISIANTHUS	7-10	\$6.00 TO \$8.50	
LOTUS PODS		\$3.00	
ORCHID - CYMBIDIUM	PER STEM	\$13.00 TO \$17.00	
ORCHID - SINGAPORE	5	\$4.00 TO \$8.00	
ORCHID - TIGER	5	\$11.50	
ORCHID - TIGER (DANCING LADIES)	10	\$25.00	
PEONY ROSE	5	\$3.00 TO \$8.00	
POPPIES	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.00	
PROTEA - KING	PER STEM	\$1.00 TO \$2.00	
PROTEA - PINK ICE		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
QUEEN FABIOLA	10	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
RICEFLOWER	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
ROSE - 30CM	10	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
ROSE - 40CM	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
ROSE - 50CM	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.50	\$11.00
ROSE - 60CM	10	\$7.00 TO \$7.50	\$12.00
ROSE - 70CM+	10	\$5.00 TO \$9.00	\$14.00
ROSE - MINI	10	\$4.50 TO \$6.00	
SAFFLOWER (CARTHAMUS)	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SCABIOSA		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
SCABIOSA PODS	10	\$7.50	
SEDUM	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SNAPDRAGON	10	\$2.50 TO \$5.00	
SOLIDASTER	10	\$3.00 TO \$3.50	
STIRLINGIA (BUD)		\$5.00	
STRELITZIA - BIRD OF PARADISE	5	\$10.00 TO \$12.50	
SUNFLOWER	5	\$4.00 TO \$9.00	
SWEETPEA	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SWEET WILLIAM		\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
TULIPS	10	\$4.00 TO \$8.00	
VERONICA	10	\$4.00 TO \$4.50	
WALLFLOWERS		\$2.50 TO \$4.00	
WATER LILIES	5	\$7.00 TO \$8.00	
WATSONIA	10	\$3.00	
WAX FLOWER - GERALDTON (OPEN)	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
FOLIAGE			
ACACIA - BAILEYANA	10	\$4.50	
ANDROMEDA (FLOWERING)		\$4.50 TO \$6.00	
BAMBOO	PER STEM	\$2.00 TO \$20.00	
BOTTLEBRUSH (FLOWERING)	PER STEM	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
BOX		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
BROOME	4	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
CHESTNUT FOLIAGE		\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
CHRISTMAS BUSH	10	\$5.00 TO \$13.00	
CORDYLINE	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
FAN PALM	10	\$5.00	
FIGS	5	\$8.00 TO \$10.00	
FISHBONE FERN		\$3.50 TO \$7.50	
GARRYA	3	\$5.00 TO \$7.00	
GERBERA FOLIAGE		\$3.00	
GINGER FOLIAGE		\$5.00	
GREEN & GOLD	10	\$4.50	
GREVILLIA (FLOWERING - MOONLIGHT)		\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
GUM		\$2.50	
HOLLY		\$5.00 TO \$7.00	
HYDRANGEA FOLIAGE	10	\$5.00 TO \$7.00	
JASMINE (FLOWERING)		\$3.00 TO \$3.50	
KOALA FERN		\$4.50	
LAUREL		\$3.50 TO \$4.00	
LEATHER FERN		\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LEPTOSPERNUM (FLOWERING)	10	\$5.00	
LOTUS PODS	EACH	\$4.00 TO \$6.00	
MAGNOLIA FOLIAGE (FLOWERING/BUDDING)	5	\$6.50 TO \$7.50	
MOLUCCA BALM (IRISH BELLS)	5	\$4.50 TO \$5.50	
MONSTERIA LEAVES		\$6.50 TO \$9.00	
MORRISON		\$5.00	
PHILODENDRON - XANADU	5-6	\$3.00 TO \$3.50	
POLYGALA (FLOWERING)	5	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
RHODODENDRON FLOWERING	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
SILVER SUEDE		\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SNOTTY GRASS	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
SPEAR GRASS		\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
SPRUCE (BLUE)	5	\$7.00 TO \$8.00	
VIURNUM FLOWERING	5	\$6.50	