PLANT FACT SHEET

Gladiolus communis L.

GENUS *Gladiolus* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

COMMON NAMES Byzantine gladiolus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root-starch, Bulbs

The starch of the root is a famine food for extending bread flour, after removing the bitter element.

DESCRIPTION

A plant with a corm. It grows 50-75 cm high and 8-10 cm wide. The leaves are grey. The leaves sheath the stem. There are 3-5 leaves and they are sword shaped. they have several prominent veins. The flowers are purple or red. There are 5-10 on a stem in 2 alternating ranks.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. It is naturalised in Tasmania. It suits hardiness zones 6-10.

NOTES

There are about 180 Gladiolus species.

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