PLANT FACT SHEET

Gladiolus dalenii Van Geel

GENUS *Gladiolus* **FAMILY** Iridaceae

COMMON NAMES Parrot-beak gladiolus, Dragon's head lily

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves, Corms, Root, flower - nectar

The anthers are removed and the flowers are eaten raw in salads. They are also used as a potherb.
Children suck the flowers for the nectar.
The corm is used to make a sweet drink. It is a milk substitute.
The corm is eaten cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A herb. It grows up to 90 cm high. The leaves are near the base and long and narrow. The leaves are 2 cm wide. The flowers are on stalks about as high as the leaves. The flowers are usually turned to one side. They are yellow with reddish dots. The flower tube is 3 cm long. The fruit is an oblong capsule.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in wetter areas. It is often in places with a summer rainfall. It needs to be in a sunny position. In Zimbabwe it grows between 980-1,910 m above sea level. It grows in savannah woodland and wet grass savannah.

NOTES

There are about 150-300 Gladiolus species.

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