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Abstract: Gladiolus (family Iridaceae) is one of the most important bulbous flower crops due to its long attractive spike with variety of colours, prolonged vase life and its ability to withstand long distance transportation. The role of growth regulators in growth & flowering of gladiolus has received considerable attention recently though very little work has been done on this aspect, hence the present study was under taken. The experiment was conducted in the experimental area of the Department of Horticulture consisting of four varieties of gladiolus and four concentrations of GA3 (25, 50, 75, & 100 ppm). The experiment was conducted in FRBD. Healthy and uniform size of corms of four different varieties of Gladiolus (V1-American Beauty, V2-Pacifica, and V3- Summer Pearl and V4-Single Jester) was planted in first week of June at spacing of 20x50cm. Un-treated control was also maintained. In all there were 20 treatments each with 10 plants replicated thrice in FRBD. The observations were recorded on various vegetative growths, cormel production and floral attributes, Spikes were harvested when basal florets showed colour. In this investigation GA3 100 ppm was found most effective for enhancing vegetative growth, earliest sprouting (6.60 days), maximum plant height (132.83 cm), no. of leaves (10.86), initiation of spike (48.6 days), vase life 14.60 days), cormel production (16.43). However maximum spike length (79.27 cm), rachis length (70.13cm), Number of florets per spike (16.10) time taken for Colour breaking (89.53 days) were observed at 50 ppm. Maximum floret size (13.16cm) and earlier 50% flowering (84.81days) were recorded at 25 ppm GA3. Treatment with GA3 showed delayed 50% heading in (101.66 days) at 100 ppm. Different treatments with GA3 failed to exert any significant influence on total number of spike. The results revealed that var. Summer Pearl recorded earliest sprouting (6.60 days), maximum plant height (132.83 cm), earlier colour break (89.53 days), earlier 50% flowering (84.80 days) and maximum cormel production (16.43) While maximum spike length (79.27cm), earlier initiation of spike (48.60days) and rachis length (70.13 cm) were recorded in Pacifica. Maximum number of leaves (10.86), maximum number of florets per spike (16.10) and maximum florets size (13.16 cm) were exhibited by var. American Beauty whereas Single Jester showed maximum vase life (14.60 days)

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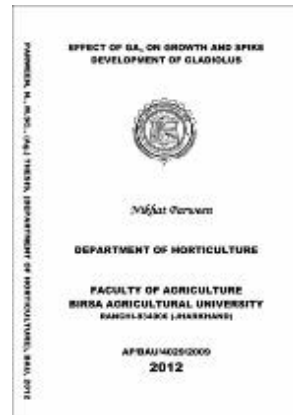
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