

GLADIOLUS

Gladiolus is one of the popular cut-flowers in India and most widely used flower for vase decoration and for preparation of bouquets. The present popularity is due to its large scale commercial cultivation in India has been promoted by CSIR-NBRI. None of the social functions is complete without the magnificent Gladioli flowers.

CSIR-NBRI since past 25 years has been working on this floral crop by way of germplasm collection, conservation, development of new varieties, standardization of agro-technology for commercial cultivation, rendering technical advice, organization of training courses, providing planting materials and

its popularization by organizing Annual Flower Shows.

CSIR-NBRI has developed 20 new varieties so far which are popular amongst the Gladiolus growers. Recent ones are – ‘Neelima’, ‘Urvashi’, ‘Suverna’, ‘Roshni’ and ‘Jamuni’.

The institute has been maintaining germplasm collection of 110 named cultivars (both Indian bred and exotic).

The agro-technology for commercial cultivation has been passed on to 2000 progressive farmers as a result; Lucknow and its surroundings are known for quality Glad flowers. Many Indian cities are getting Lucknow grown Glad spikes. One can earn

Rs.50,000 to 70,000 per acre, if properly marketed. Thus CSIR-NBRI was instrumental for creation of employment generation and up-liftment of farmers through various rural development programmes.

Every year CSIR-NBRI organizes Gladiolus and Rose Show in January in its Botanic Garden.



Gladiolus 'Suverna'

A new cultivar developed by NBRI in 2008 through hybridization using 'Hall Mark' as male and 'Fedelio' as female parents. Colour of the florets in combination of three colours (orange red, red, and creamy

yellow) is the main attraction.



Gladiolus 'Urvashi'

A new cultivar developed by NBRI in 2006 through hybridization using 'Eurovision' as male and 'Snow Princess' as female parents. Satin-like florets in light purple-orange colour in pure form are very unusual and attractive.

Gladiolus ‘Neelima’

A new cultivar developed by NBRI in 2006 through hybridization using ‘Tropic Sea’ as male and ‘Snow Princess’ as female parents. Bluish-purple coloured florets, with purple–white centre, compactly arranged in the spike, make a gorgeous appearance.



Gladiolus ‘Roshni’ (NBRI New Cultivar, 2010)

Parents: ‘Friendship Pink’ (Female) X ‘Red Beauty’ (Male)



Description: A hybrid seedling; plant height 0.95-1.0 m.; spike length 0.70 – 0.75 m.; no. of floret per spike 12-15; size of the floret 9-10 x 8-9 cm across; all petals are having similar base colour - pinkish-red (Red Group No.52B, Fan- 1) while streaks of orange-white originate from throat to periphery. Each petal has a central nerve of orange-white (Orange-white Group159D, Fan - 7

4) from base to tip. Back of the floret is having more prominent streaks of orange-white on base colour of pinkish-red.

Specialty: The name of the cultivar is after the attractive soft but bright flower colour which creates sparkle. Medium spike length and comparatively small sized flowers are suitable for making modern presentation bouquets.

Gladiolus ‘Jamuni’ (‘Amethyst’) (NBRI New Cultivar, 2010)

Parents: ‘Lavender Puff’ (Female) X ‘Tropic Sea’ (Male)

Description: A hybrid seedling; plant height 1.15–1.20 m.; spike length 0.90- 0.95 m.; no. of floret per spike 16-18; size of the floret 11-12 x 10-11 cm across; bi-coloured in combination of purple and



yellow-white (Purple Group No.77B, Fan- 2; Yellow-white Group 158C, Fan – 4). Outer four petals slightly frilled, tip pointed and curved outward, having 80% purple colour and rest is yellow-white. Inner two petals are obtuse, having 20 % purple at the tip and 80% is yellow-white at



the base. Back side of the flower is red-purple (Red-Purple 72 B, Fan-2).

Specialty: Two tone colour combination (purple and yellow-white) and compact arrangement of florets makes the cultivar unique. There are few cultivars in blue-purple group. Therefore, this cultivar will be a new addition in this colour range.