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CHARACTERIZATION OF CORMS FROM DIFFERENT CULTIVARS OF GLADIOLUS

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NEVES; Leidiane Santana das ¹, CORDEIRO; Maria Helena Menezes ², BENETTI; Rafael Benetti ³, SILVA; Celice Alexandre ⁴

RESUMO

Gladiolus (*Gladiolus* spp.) is a species of the cut flower of subtropical climate that adapts to a wide temperature range. The commercial propagation of the gladiolus occurs by planting corms, which are spherical organs formed by leaf sheaths and which develop buds in the reproductive stage. The success of a gladiolus plant is directly related to the bulb, plants coming from small bulbs and with little reserve produces stunted floral stems, with few flower buds, while lush floral stems are obtained from larger corms. In this sense, the present study aimed to evaluate five gladiolus cultivars regarding the characteristics of the corms. *Gladiolus* corms produced by cultivars White Goddess, Purple Flora, Green Star, Yester and Spic en Span were evaluated. The cultivars were planted in March 2020 and the corms were harvested in June of the same year. The experiment was carried out in a randomized block design with five cultivars, four replications, and five plants per plot. After harvesting the corms, the fresh weight, diameter, and length of the corms were evaluated. The results were subjected to analysis of variance and Tukey's test at 5% probability. Significant differences were found in the length and diameter characteristics of the corms. Corm mass ranged from 14.54 g observed for White Goddess cultivar to 23.31 g observed for Spic en Span cultivar. For length, the observed values ranged from 17.52 to 36.2 mm, respectively for the cultivars White Goddess and Spic en Span. The largest diameter was observed for cultivating Spic en Span, while the smallest was observed for White Goddess. The gladiolus bulbs showed a pattern for use in the next growing cycle, the cultivars Spic in Span and Purple Flora cultivars stood out from the others.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Gladiolus* spp, Cut flower, biometry

¹ Universidade do Estado de Mato Grosso, leidynevestga@hotmail.com

² Universidade do Estado de Mato Grosso, helenaagromc@gmail.com

³ Universidade Estadual de Goiás, rafbtti@yahoo.com.br

⁴ Universidade do Estado de Mato Grosso, celice@unemat.br