

kes greenhouse



1st GRADERS

PROPAGATE A

GLADIOLUS FROM A CORM!

Sad About Our TULIPS

We were sad that the TULIPS didn't do well. Many of the BULBS rotted. But plant scientists don't give up! We made the most of a bad situation by dissecting the bulbs. What did we see? Some bulbs still had layers of LEAVES with a BABY PLANT inside. But others had turned to mush or powder. What happened? They were attacked by a FUNGUS, making them rot.

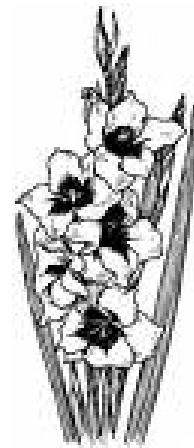
Glad To Propagate a GLADIOLUS!

We are trying again! This time we each got to PROPAGATE a GLADIOLUS plant from a CORM. A corm is similar to a bulb in that it grows in the ground and has a baby plant inside. But what's different is that the baby plant is not inside layers of leaves. Instead, it is inside a big, fat STEM. Strange but true! Another thing that's strange but true: The plural of GLADIOLUS is GLADIOLI.

See other side for plant care.→

I'm glad to be a GLADIOLUS!

I'm glad to be a CORM!



kes greenhouse



Caring For Your GLADIOLUS

GLADIOLUS loves lots of sun. Water your GLAD when the soil starts to dry out.

When the weather turns warm at the end of May it can go outside in a sunny spot that is protected from deer. Dig a hole in your garden 8 inches deep. Plant the GLAD pot and all. If you prefer, plant it in a big pot. (At least 12 inches wide.) Your GLAD should grow to be 5 feet tall. Now you see why it needs lots of space! Keep watering your GLAD when the soil starts to dry out.

In the fall, once the leaves have been killed by frost, dig up the corm. Carefully remove the soil and cut the leaves off just above the corm. Put it in a warm, dry, airy place for three weeks. Then store it in a paper bag and replant next spring.



In September, when you return to KES as a 2nd grader, be sure to tell me whether your GLADIOLUS flowers were yellow, red or purple!

Think green!
Ms. Clare