

The Green Goddess will return to haunt challengers

Hummingbirds dart in and around a half acre of blooming flowers. Beauty, through flowers, one of God's most aesthetic creations, abounds at Dr. Wallace Wolff's home, a mile north of Heppner.

About 1,000 gladiolus bulbs were planted this year to insure the amateur gardener of some cut flowers, one he has used to win the cut flower exhibit at the county fair with over the years.

The Green Goddess will undoubtedly be back, in full bloom ready to take on the blue ribbon once more.

It started as a kind of family hobby 22 years ago. The flowers have blossomed, so to speak, into a 30 hour a week job though.

Wolff's main entry will be the glad. He planted 1000 bulbs, 50 different kinds, in three, two-week intervals. He does this so he is sure of having some flowers in bloom at fair time.

His other flowers are "planted for background effect" but if some are in bloom at fair time, he may enter some of either his Cosmos, Zinnias, Marigolds, Asters or African Daisies.

Last year he entered, along with the Green Goddess glad, some zinnias, Shasta daisies

and Red Hot Pokers. He took the most blue ribbons and had the best cut flowers in the show.

Rain is always good for plants except in some instances. While his glads require an inch of water each week, he'd prefer it didn't rain about four or five days before fair.

Rain can spot the petals he says, and interfere with their beauty as much as the hunk

for about two hours.

This gives them longer life. If they are just cut and put in cold water, they can fade in about three days.

As a kid, Wolff said, he worked on a farm in Wisconsin and got the growing bug. Wolff, who said he likes to fish a lot, found fishing not compatible with his occupation as a doctor in town. Gardening makes him readily

gressively, you get more garden than you can take care of."

"We're at the point now," Wolff says, "we're going to

have to learn to eat glads." Wolff's gladiolus will be entered in the cut flower category at the fair this year. His flowers will be judged at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24.

'We're at the point now, where we're going to have to learn to eat glads.'

chewing grasshopper or the little thrip that discolors the petals.

Wolff guesses he has 50 day lily types, 400 iris, eight peonies and a whole variety of other types.

"It takes all the time I have," he said, "to cut and prepare the glads for the fair." Wolff said the glads have to be cut the night before the fair and then hardened. This process involves soaking the flowers in hot water, about 150 degrees, then in cold water

available to a telephone in case of any emergency.

The Wolffs have lived in Heppner 25 years and started collecting iris about 22 years ago. The iris blossomed into the acre and a half of lawn and garden he has today.

The garden it seems, keeps getting bigger and bigger.

"Glads are not supposed to be planted in the same soil every year, but rotated about every three years. I'm tempted to spade up additional soil each year for the glads. Pro-



Dr. Wolff and a bunch of prize winning gladiolus.



A florists delight, Dr. Wolff walks amidst his creation of beauty in his back yard.