UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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Gazania spp.[1]

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Introduction

Gazania is a perennial grown as an annual that grows well in rock gardens or in other hot, dry areas (Fig. 1). It forms a very low, ground-hugging ground cover, producing bright yellow, orange or red, daisy-like flowers. Flowers close at night and on very cloudy days. Plants grow 6 to 12-inches tall with blueish foliage. Do not plant in the partial shade. Full day sun is required for healthy plants.

General Information

Scientific name: *Gazania spp.*
Pronunciation: gay-ZAY-nee-uh species
Common name(s): Gazania
Family: *Compositae*
Plant type: ground cover; perennial; herbaceous
USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 8: Apr; May
Planting month for zone 9: Mar; Apr; May; Sep; Oct
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Apr; May; Nov; Dec
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: ground cover; edging
Availablity: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: .5 to 1 feet
Spread: 1 to 2 feet
Plant habit: round

Figure 1. Gazania.

Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: lobed
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: blue or blue-green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: yellow; orange; red
Flower characteristic: year-round flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: unknown
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; alkaline; loam
Drought tolerance: high
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

It is a good plant for erosion control in dry areas. It should be planted 12 to 18-inches apart to form a solid ground cover several months after planting. Good soil gives best growth but the plant tolerates poor, sandy soil. Gazania requires less water than most annuals or perennials. Full sun is preferred and the flowers do not open fully on wet or cloudy days. Extended wet weather or poorly drained soil can promote disease which can kill portions of the plant. Removing the old blossoms may increase the number of blooms produced.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern but can be susceptible to root rot on wet or poorly drained soils.