**Gazania spp. Gazania**

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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

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant
Gazania spp. Gazania

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Description**

**Height**: .5 to 1 feet

**Spread**: 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit**: round

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**Spread**: 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit**: round

**Foliage**

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

**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

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Gazania spp. Gazania

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.

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