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. The stripped petals set this group of hybrids apart from other Gazanias. Flowers close at night and on very cloudy days. Plants grow 6 to 12-inches tall with bluish foliage. Do not plant in the partial shade. Full day sun is required for healthy plants.

General Information

Scientific name: Gazania x Harlequin Hybrids

Pronunciation: gay-ZAY-nee-uh

Common name(s): Harlequin Hybrid Gazania

Family: Compositae

Plant type: ground cover; perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 8: Apr; May

Figure 1. Harlequin Hybrid Gazania.

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

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

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: .5 to 1 feet
Spread: 1 to 2 feet
Plant habit: round
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: medium

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

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

Fruit

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

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
Gazania x Harlequin Hybrids' Harlequin Hybrids Gazania

**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 pest

**Pests and Diseases**

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

**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. Provide excellent soil drainage when growing this plant in the eastern part of the US. 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.

Archival copy: for current recommendations see http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu or your local extension office.