

Trailing Gazania

Treasure Flowers originate from the northwestern Cape, South Africa, and are now found both in warm countries as perennials and in colder climates grown seasonally. Peduncles of some 10 cm in length raise the solitary flowers distinctly above the leaves. The foliage is hairless on top but hirsute beneath. The flowers bear a ring of yellow, golden or orange rays which are sterile and centred by a black eye of fertile disc florets. The composite flowers may differ in size from 4 to 8 cm across. This variety is not known to grow wild, but from cultivation only. Gazanias grow well in poor soil and tolerate the frost that may occur in Arriyadh, where it is a very dependable groundcover. They can be used anywhere in gardens and parks as groundcover to hide dry earth. They are highly decorative in rock gardens and useful on embankments to prevent erosion. Gazanias tolerate a remarkable amount of salt in the ground. They quickly establish themselves after transplanting and tolerate drought. Maintenance is limited to lifting and dividing the plants when they become overcrowded. They may naturalise within irrigated areas, but rarely become weedy. Cultivars show many different colours within the same inflorescence, and some even double flowers. They easily hybridise to result in numerous variations that are hard to distinguish or to allocate. The name *rigens* means rigid, which may refer to the pointed bracts. Gazanias are pollinated by many different insects. The fruit is endowed with long hairs that are easily dispersed by the wind.



GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: fairly fast growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings, division
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2500 ppm)
Hardiness	: -9°C

SHAPE

Type	: perennial, biennial, annual
Height	: 0.15 m-0.3 m
Spread	: 0.4 m-1.2 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: yellow, orange
Size	: 4 cm - 8 cm
Period	: March - August

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: achene
Fruit size	: 0.3 cm