

Treasure Flower

GENERAL

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: normal growth rate
Humidity	: very arid, 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	: -6°C

SHAPE

Type	: perennial
Height	: 0.3 m
Spread	: 0.5 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: yellow
Size	: 6 cm
Period	: March - June

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: achene
Fruit size	: 0.3 cm

This is the toughest Gazania variety surviving frost, salinity and drought. These characteristics make it well adaptable to various habitats in its homeland, South Africa, but also in Arriyadh, where it is a very dependable groundcover. Although resistant to dry soil, it appreciates frequent watering in gritty soil that allows good drainage. It needs a place in full sun where the flowers open during the day to close at dusk. Bright-yellow flowers appear most prolifically from spring to summer, and occasionally in other seasons. Only few plants produce as glorious a show of colour as this Treasure Flower every year, under the most adverse circumstances. The plants creep moderately quickly with sparsely branched stems reaching some 40 cm in length. Its alternate leaves are about 10 cm long and 3 cm wide with an obovate shape. The name leucolaena is derived from the Greek word for a white cloak, referring to the tomentose leaves. It makes an ideal groundcover in a rockery, but its silvery foliage also contrasts well in mixed borders and beddings with massed plantings. On top and underneath, the leaves are woolly-hairy. After some years, this Gazania sometimes sheds older leaves at the base and needs either hard pruning to regrow, or otherwise the entire plant needs replacement. Some cultivars have been selected with an even more prolific floral display such as 'Sunglow' and 'Yellow Star'. Treasure Flowers grow readily from seed sown in early spring. Cultivars are better propagated by division or cuttings both in spring or autumn.

