

Gazania linearis

COMMON NAME

gazania, treasure flower

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Gazania linearis (Thunb.) Druce

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

GAZLIN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

SIMILAR TAXA

Gazania rigens and *G. linearis* can be difficult to distinguish and are known to hybridise in the wild. The characters below are a synthesis from a number of websites: *Gazania rigens*. Stems: decumbent stems that spread along the ground and form large spreading clumps. Leaves: lighter-coloured silvery or hairy on upper surfaces; narrow but variably-shaped, dandelion-like leaves (narrow, spoon-shaped to lobed), silvery green. Leaves are alternately arranged or densely clustered along these stems. Old leaves deciduous. Flower stems: 5-10-(15) cm tall. Flowers: Heads up to 10cm across, ray florets yellow to orange and, near the base of each petal, with a black to dark purple marking and a white spot; orange-brown disks.

Gazania linearis. Mat-forming or clumping, growing from rhizomes, forming small clumps. Leaves: glossy dark green on upper surfaces; white-hairy below; vary from narrowly elliptic and entire to deeply lobed, up to 10 cm long and up to 2 cm wide, leaves are borne in a rosette at ground level (i.e. they are radical). Old leaves persisting. Flower stems 20-30 cm tall. Heads 5-8cm across; ray florets usually yellow with a reddish central stripe; can be orange or bronze or red; dark reddish centre.

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

South Africa

ETYMOLOGY

gazania: Possibly from the Latin *gaza* 'treasure' or 'riches' alluding to the large and gaudy flowers, or alternatively named after the humanist and translator Theodorus Gaza or Theodore Gazis (c.a. 1398 – 1475).

linearis: Linear (leaves)



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gazania-linearis/>