

# Gazania rigens

## COMMON NAME

Gazania

## SYNONYMS

*Gazania splendens*

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gazania rigens* (L.) Gaertn.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

GAZRIG

## 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).



*Gazania rigens*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Castlepoint Scenic Reserve, near pine trees. Photographer: John Sawyer, Date taken: 01/04/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

**MORE INFORMATION**

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