

Gazania (*Gazania* spp.)



Gazanias are a low-growing perennial herb from South Africa. They are a popular groundcover in commercial and home garden plantings in Australia, but this group of invasive plants has spread into coastal dunes, agricultural areas and along roadsides.

Gazania is a declared weed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. However these sterile cultivars, all subject to Plant Breeders Rights in Australia, are exempt:

- GT20 (marketed as Double Gold TM)
- Sugaja (marketed as Sunset Jane TM)
- Sugamo (marketed as Montezuma TM).

Description

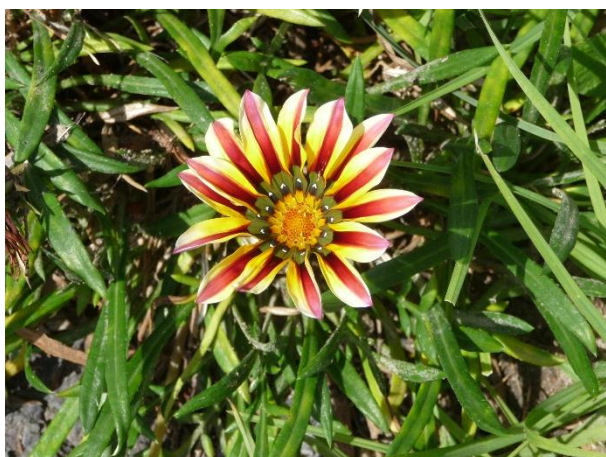
The Gazania genus is comprised of multiple species which can hybridise freely, making them hard to identify. It's their growth habits which can help pinpoint the

species, but this level of identification is not needed to effectively manage this weed.

Gazanias are a tough, low-growing perennial herb that grow to an average height of 30 cm. They grow in clumps and can also form dense carpets covering large areas. Flower heads are brightly coloured and commonly have yellow or orange petals with dark or black bases (sometimes with a white dot). Other colours include cream, pink, red or maroon. Gazanias flower all year round but mostly in spring and summer. Flower heads can be 6 to 12 cm across, and the stalk height can reach up to 30 cm. Flowers close under low light and at night.

Leaves range from 4 to 10 cm long, slender with a pointed end and an indented central mid rib. Leaves vary from dark green and glossy to silver/grey and hairy. The underside of the leaves are distinctly white/silver. Young leaves can be lobed.

Gazanias produce an abundance of seed. One flower can produce over 60 seeds which are spread by the wind up to 1 km away. Seed also germinates next to the parent plant so new plants form a dense groundcover carpet. Seed can also be dispersed on vehicles, by mowing or



carried in flood waters. And in some situations it can also spread by sending out rhizomes creating new plants.

Dumped garden waste including lawn clippings that contain the seed or plant material can contribute to this weed's distribution, along with the plant 'jumping the fence'. All these methods of reproduction and dispersal make it a highly successful environmental weed.

Impacts

Gazania are a highly invasive and adaptable weed that grow well on most soil types. In agricultural areas they invade cultivated and irrigated sites. Along roadsides they spread through maintenance activities such as slashing, grading and through resistance to herbicide.

They readily establish in sand dunes and can dramatically alter locations by outcompeting native plants with their high demand for nutrients and moisture. Gazania can also form dense monocultures, which exclude other plants and easily invade other native vegetation types, impacting on biodiversity.

Distribution

Gazania is widely distributed in the Green Adelaide region, particularly favouring coastal environments.

Control methods

Manual removal

For effective control, the entire plant, including its root system, should be dug out with minimal disturbance techniques used. Plants should be removed and correctly disposed of to ensure flowers do not go to seed or the roots re-establish. Where the plant can't be removed flowers heads should be taken off before setting seed. This prevents further spread of seed. A minimal level of control is to mow or brush-cut the flowers before they develop and set seed.

Chemical

For advice on chemical options please refer to the *Weed control handbook for declared plants in South Australia* at: www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa

Always read the label of any herbicide to ensure it is suitable for its intended purpose and can be used safely.

Care should be taken to avoid herbicide contact with native plants and any herbicide spraying in native vegetation should be left to qualified bushcare operators.

Control is most effective when the plant is actively growing with new lush foliage and flowering. Don't spray when the plant is visibly under stress.

Declarations

The following sections of the Act apply to gazania in the Green Adelaide region:

- 175** (1) Prohibiting entry to area
- 175** (2) Prohibiting movement on public roads
- 177** (1) Prohibiting sale of the plant
- 177** (2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods
- 182** (2) Landowners to control the plant on their properties
- 185** Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves

The sale or transport of gazania is prohibited and residents are encouraged to remove them from their property. In some cases authorities may require that it be controlled.

In the Green Adelaide region, priority areas are next to native vegetation, particularly coastal areas.

Search online for the *Coastal gardens planting guide* for some great replacement plants our native birds, insects and other animals will enjoy.

Contact us

Green Adelaide

T: 08 8463 3733

E: DEW.Greenadelaide@sa.gov.au

greenadelaide.sa.gov.au