**Gazania x ‘Harlequin Hybrids’**

Edward F. Gilman

**Introduction**

Gazania is a perennial grown as an annual that grows well in rock gardens or in other hot, dry areas (Fig. 1). It forms a very low, ground-hugging ground cover, producing bright yellow, orange or red, daisy-like flowers. The stripped petals set this group of hybrids apart from other Gazanias. Flowers close at night and on very cloudy days. Plants grow 6 to 12-inches tall with bluish foliage. Do not plant in the partial shade. Full day sun is required for healthy plants.

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** *Gazania x ‘Harlequin Hybrids’
- **Pronunciation:** gay-ZAY-nee-uh
- **Common name(s):** Harlequin Hybrid Gazania
- **Family:** *Compositae*
- **Plant type:** ground cover; perennial; herbaceous
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)
- **Planting month for zone 8:** Apr; May
- **Planting month for zone 9:** Mar; Apr; May; Sep; Oct
- **Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** Feb; Mar; Apr; May; Nov; Dec
- **Origin:** not native to North America
- **Uses:** ground cover; edging
- **Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

**Description**

- **Height:** .5 to 1 feet
- **Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Figure 1. Harlequin Hybrid Gazania.**

- **Plant habit:** round
- **Plant density:** moderate
- **Growth rate:** moderate
- **Texture:** medium

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1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-227, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf arrangement:** most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** lobed  
**Leaf shape:** linear  
**Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** not applicable  
**Fall characteristic:** not applicable  

**Flower**

**Flower color:** yellow; red; orange  
**Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering  

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** unknown  
**Fruit length:** unknown  
**Fruit cover:** unknown  
**Fruit color:** unknown  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy  

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin  

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; acidic; alkaline; loam  
**Drought tolerance:** high  
**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown  
**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches  

**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests
Use and Management

It is a good plant for erosion control in dry areas. It should be planted 12 to 18-inches apart to form a solid ground cover several months after planting. Good soil gives best growth but the plant tolerates poor, sandy soil. Provide excellent soil drainage when growing this plant in the eastern part of the US. Gazania requires less water than most annuals or perennials. Full sun is preferred and the flowers do not open fully on wet or cloudy days. Extended wet weather or poorly drained soil can promote disease which can kill portions of the plant. Removing the old blossoms may increase the number of blooms produced.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern but can be susceptible to root rot on wet or poorly drained soils.