

# Gazania (*Gazania spp.*)

## Fact sheet

### What do they look like?

Gazania is a drought tolerant perennial herb that is supported by a shallow rooted rhizome system. It grows to an average of 30cm tall. Originally from South Africa, the plant has daisy-like flowers ranging in colour from orange, red, yellow and purple. The leaves are dark green-silver and very hairy underneath. They are long and thin and measure 5-10cm long and 3-20mm wide. The tufts appear as a thick mat, displacing other vegetation in the area. The plants flower from June to December and are often seen in disturbed areas such as roadsides and coastal dunes.



The one seeded fruit is egg-shaped with scales and hairs. The plant reproduces from seed, which is spread by the wind and stolons (stems). The seeds are thought to be short-lived. The plant can also hybridise with other subspecies of *Gazania* (such as *linearis* and *rigens*.)

### Why should Gazania be controlled?

A garden escapee, *Gazania* is commonly found on the Eyre Peninsula. It has become an environmental weed after being widely planted for ornamental purposes. It easily colonises disturbed ground such as roadsides but invades bushland, crops and vineyards. Once established *Gazania* can form dense stands that exclude all other plants. It impacts on native vegetation by competing for moisture and nutrients. It spreads along road reserves, degrading remnant native vegetation. It invades and degrades coastal dune vegetation.



## What are my responsibilities?

Gazania is a declared weed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. On the Eyre Peninsula the transport and selling of the plant is prohibited.

## What are the best ways to control Gazania?

Established infestations can be difficult to remove, but a sustained effort can yield good results. The two main methods are physical and chemical control.



### Physical control

Seedlings, small plants and small infestations can be grubbed, making sure all the rhizomes are removed. Correct disposal of grubbed plants is essential to prevent further spread of this weed. It is recommended that you first remove and bag the flower heads to prevent seed dispersal and place them in your red rubbish bin for deep burial at the dump. Once the plant is removed it is a good idea to compact the soil back down to prevent further weed infestation. Planting a competitive replacement is advisable to inhibit re-growth from the Gazania. Known sites should be regularly checked for regrowth.

### Chemical control

Large infestations of gazania are best controlled with herbicide. Foliage should be thoroughly sprayed to runoff and care taken not to miss any part of the plant.

Here are some of the chemical formulation options:

Spray plants until just wet with a mix of 50ml glyphosate (450g/L) in 10L water.

In bushland areas use 4g of Lontrel®750 plus 25ml Pulse® in 10L water to reduce damage to companion plants.

200g/ha of Lontrel®750 plus 0.25% wetting agent can be used for roadside and overall spraying.

Roundup Biactive (glyphosate (360g/L) at a rate of 100ml to 10L of water can also be used for conservation areas, bushland and other non-crop areas.

In 100L of water mix 250ml of Lontrel advanced with 2L of Bioweed Organic pine oil. Or in 100L of water mix 500ml of Lontrel 300 and 2L of Bioweed organic pine oil.

The best time to apply herbicides is in autumn or spring, but good results can usually be achieved any time the plants are actively growing.

## Do you have Gazania?

If you think you have Gazania on your property, Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board staff can provide advice on control and management.

### More information

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