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Gazania rigens

[Synonyms : *Gazania splendens*, *Gorteria rigens*]

TREASURE FLOWER is a perennial (often grown as an annual). Native to South Africa it has daisy-like, golden-orange flowers with a black dot at the base of each petal which combined encircle a dark-coloured centre.

It is also known as Black-eyed Susan, Gazania, and *Gazanie zářivá* (Czech).

The flowers close at night and under cloud cover.

Rigens is derived from Latin *rigeo* (inflexible, unbending, stiff, rigid) meaning ‘rigid or stiff’.

Via the Netherlands treasure flower was introduced to England in the mid-18th Century. At that time *Gardener’s Dictionary* by Philip Miller (1691-1771), curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, was particularly popular among English gardeners and botanists alike. Thus it was a measure of the flower’s immediate success in the Country that it was chosen to be one of those illustrated in the Dictionary’s supplementary volumes published in 1755 and 1760.

Today the flower is widely cultivated as an ornamental plant.

In 1995 treasure flower featured on Gambian postage stamps.