

U.S. Patent

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Plant 5,795



[54] GAZANIA PLANT CALLED MITSUWA
SUPER CLUMP
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[73] Assignee: Mitsuwa Nursery, Inc., Moorpark,
Calif.
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[57] ABSTRACT
A Gazania named Mitsuwa Super Clump having yellow
flowers, and characterized by, as compared to known
clumping yellow Gazanias, of being much more hardy
and vigorous, with longer leaves, taller flowers, and
growing more rapidly.

1 Drawing Figure

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinctive
cultivar of gazania plant, botanically known as *Gazania*
splendens, and referred to commercially by the cultivar
name "Mitsuwa Super Clump".

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Gazanias, in general, are a genus of herbs of the aster
family which are characterized by large, showy, orange
and yellow blossoms and which prefer bright sunshine.
They are native to South Africa but are now widely
cultivated and are commercially important. Gazanias
were named after Theodorus Gaza, a medieval Greek
scholar of Italy.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying color photograph, forming a part
of this disclosure, was taken in March of 1985 in Moor-
park, Calif., and shows Mitsuwa Super Clump growing
in a bed; the view being a perspective looking down and
forwardly at the plant. The photograph shows the col-
ors of all parts of Mitsuwa Super Clump as true as is
reasonably possible in this type of color photograph.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mitsuwa Super Clump is a spontaneous sport or mu-
tant discovered by Mr. Toshiaki Ono in the nursery of
Mitsuwa Nursery, Inc. of Moorpark, Calif. The parent
plant is *Gazania splendens aurantiacum*.

Asexual reproduction, starting by propagating cut-
tings from the originally discovered sport, has repro-
duced the unique features of this new plant through
successive propagations. Crown cuttings (a major stem
with several leaves) were used for this propagation.
Mitsuwa Super Clump is distinguished from its parent
and from all other commercial Gazanias in general by
several characteristics.

Existing clumping gazanias have a severe disadvan-
tage. Reference here is made to, botanically, *Gazania*
splendens aurantiacum, commonly known as "South
African Daisy". This plant has a bush-like growth habit,
with green leaves that are very narrow. The problem
with this prior known plant, in Southern California at
least, is that it is so prone to disease that it has become
unacceptable to landscapes, and thus lost to the com-
mercial market.

Mitsuwa Super Clump has a much greater resistance
to the many plant fungi and diseases which have deci-
mated *Gazania splendens aurantiacum*, and has proved
commercially acceptable as to its vigor and hardiness.

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Mitsuwa Super Clump in addition has a significantly
longer life span as compared to *Gazania splendens*
aurantiacum.

The Mitsuwa Super Clump flowers are comparable in
color and shape to those of *Gazania splendens auran-*
tiacum. However, the flowers different in several re-
spects. Mitsuwa Super Clump flowers are each about
10% smaller than those of *Gazania splendens auran-*
tiacum, but the Mitsuwa Super Clump plant produces
much more profusely, on the order of 30% more blos-
soms per plant. In addition Mitsuwa Super Clump
blooms two to three weeks earlier than *Gazania splen-*
dens aurantiacum. Both Mitsuwa Super Clump and
Gazania splendens aurantiacum, in common with most
Gazanias in Southern California, blooms more or less all
year long.

The foliage of Mitsuwa Super Clump, compared to
that of *Gazania splendens aurantiacum*, has narrower
leaves, flowers which stand taller on their spikes, and
produces a plant which is taller overall.

Mitsuwa Super Clump is much easier to propagate
than the other commercial clumping Gazania, *Gazania*
splendens aurantiacum. More specifically, the time
needed to produce a root system for Mitsuwa Super
Clump is about 30% less than the time needed to pro-
duce a root system for *Gazania splendens aurantiacum*.
Further, in addition to producing root systems faster,
the percentage of plants resulting from these root sys-
tems is significantly higher for Mitsuwa Super Clump
than for *Gazania splendens aurantiacum*.

Color references herein, except where the ordinary
dictionary meaning is clear from the context, are to The
Royal Horticultural Color Chart. The following char-
acterizations were made by the discoverer and other
personnel of Mitsuwa Nursery, Inc., based on the flow-
ers shown in the photograph herein.

Flower, petal upside, Yellow 9A
Flower, petal downside, Yellow 12C
Flower, marks in center, Black 202A
Flower, pale stripe on bottom of petals, Grey Brown
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Leaves, upside, Green 137A
Leaves, downside, White 155D

The buds display the characteristic roughly acorn
shape common to other Gazanias.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Gazania named
Mitsuwa Super Clump, as described and illustrated, and
particularly characterized by its vigor and resistance to
disease and fungi; and by its flowers on tall spikes and
overall tall growth habit.

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