

## GAZANIA SPLENDENS

# Big Kiss™

**Minimum Germination Rate:** Kiss, Big Kiss 90%  
**Seed Product Form:** Raw

### FLOWERING

**Time frame when plants are receptive to flower initiation:** Days 16 – 20; 6 – 8 true leaves present.

**Flowering Type:** Facultative long-day plant – long days enhance for flowering.

**Specific Flowering Mechanism:** Maturity and warm temperatures trigger flowering. Irradiance will improve bud counts.

### PLUG CULTURE

**Germination:** Optimum conditions for seedling development that begins the day the crop is sown until cotyledon expansion.

Expect radicle emergence in 4 – 6 days.

**Cover:** Cover seeds with a thin layer of medium-sized vermiculite to maintain moisture levels.

**Media:** • pH: 5.8 – 6.2

• EC: 0.5 – 0.75

**Light:** Light has no effect on germination of Kiss Gazania. If utilizing a chamber, providing a light source of 10 – 100 foot candles (100 – 1,000 lux) will improve germination and reduce stretch.

**Moisture:** Moist (3) for days 1 – 3 or until radicle emergence. On days 4 – 14, reduce moisture to medium (2). Beginning day 15, alternate between moisture levels moist (3) and medium (2) until cotyledon expansion. Allow media to approach level (2) before re-saturating to level (3).

**Humidity:** 100% until radicle emergence then reduce to 40%.

**Dehumidify:** Provide horizontal airflow to aid in drying down the media through evapotranspiration, allowing better penetration of oxygen to the roots.

**Temperature:** 70° – 75°F (21° – 24°C) until radicle emergence, then lower to 65° – 68°F (18° – 20°C) until cotyledon expansion.

**Plug Bulking:** Optimum conditions during the vegetative period, beginning at cotyledon expansion, needed for the root to reach the edge of the plug cell.

**Media:** • pH: 5.8 – 6.2

• EC: 0.75 – 1

**Light:** Under low light conditions, supplemental light for a 14 – 16-hour day may be necessary to produce a compact, sturdy seedling.

**Temperature:** 65° – 68°F (18° – 20°C). Gradually reduce temperatures to 62° – 65°F (16° – 18°C) as the seedlings mature.

**Moisture:** Alternate between moisture levels moist (3) and medium (2). Allow media to approach level (2) before re-saturating to level (3).

**Humidity:** 40 – 70%

**Dehumidify:** Provide horizontal airflow to aid in drying down the media through evapotranspiration, allowing better penetration of oxygen to the roots.

**Fertilizers:** Feed 1 – 2 times per week at 100 – 200 ppm nitrogen. Under high light conditions, apply an ammonium-based feed (17-5-17). Under low light conditions, apply a calcium-based feed (14-4-14). Under high light and long or extended days, an ammonium-based feed (20-10-20) is preferred.

**Growth Regulators:** Kiss has been bred for a naturally bushy compact habit. Growth regulators are not required under normal growing regimes. If desired, apply B-Nine (daminozide) at 2,500 ppm.

### GROWING ON

**Transplant Ready:** 5 – 6 weeks from sow in a '288' tray.

**Finish Bulking/Flower Initiation:** Optimum conditions during the vegetative period, beginning at transplant, needed for the root to reach the edge of the container AND to make the plant receptive to flower initiation.

**Media:** • pH: 5.8 – 6.2

• EC: 1 – 1.5

**Light:** Provide full sun.

**Temperature:** After transplants are established, reduce night temperatures to 55° – 60°F (12° – 16°C), with moderate day temperatures.

**Moisture:** Alternate between moisture levels wet (4) and dry (1.5) Allow media to approach level (1.5) before re-saturating to level (4).

**Humidity:** 40 – 70%

**Dehumidify:** Provide horizontal airflow to aid in drying down the media through evapotranspiration, allowing better penetration of oxygen to the roots.

**Fertilizers:** 150 – 200 ppm nitrogen as needed with a fertilizer containing low amounts of ammonium and phosphorus.

**Growth Regulators:** Kiss has been bred for a naturally bushy compact habit. Growth regulators are not required under normal growing regimes. If needed, Gazania responds to Cycocel (chlormequat chloride) or B-Nine (daminozide). When temperatures exceed 80°F (26°C), a tank mix of B-nine/Cycocel may prove more effective.

**Common Diseases:** Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Sclerotinia

**Common Pests:** Thrips, Spider Mite, Aphids

### PRODUCT USE

Large packs, pots, containers, border edgings, mass plantings

### GARDEN SPECIFICATIONS

**Light:** Full sun

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 8

**AHS Heat Zone:** 12 – 3

**Big Kiss** 10 – 12" (25 – 30 cm) 10 – 12" (25 – 30 cm)

### Gazania SCHEDULING in Weeks

**Total crop time** 12 – 14 13 – 15 13 – 15

**'288' plug crop time** 5 – 6 5 – 6 5 – 6



***Transplant to finish crop time***

**4" crop** 8 – 10 8 – 10 8 – 10

**6" crop** 9 – 11 9 – 11 9 – 11

*Note: These suggestions are only guidelines and may have to be altered to meet individual grower's needs. Check all chemical labels to verify registration for use in your region.*

Ref. : 9 May 2013

[www.goldsmithseeds.com](http://www.goldsmithseeds.com)

