



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Matthiola incana***<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

Stock is an upright annual growing to about 18 inches tall with 1.5 inch diameter flowers borne toward the top of the plant (Fig. 1). Stock is well adapted to planting in central Florida in late winter for a good flower display for about one month in late spring.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Matthiola incana*

**Pronunciation:** math-EYE-oh-luh in-KAY-nuh

**Common name(s):** Stock, Gillyflower

**Family:** *Cruciferae*

**Plant type:** biennial; perennial; herbaceous

**USDA hardiness zones:** all zones (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** Jun; Jul

**Planting month for zone 8:** May; Jun

**Planting month for zone 9:** Apr; May; Nov; Dec

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** Feb; Mar; Nov; Dec

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** mass planting

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries



**Figure 1.** Stock.

**Texture:** medium

### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate

**Leaf shape:** oblanceolate

### **Description**

**Height:** 1 to 2.5 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** moderate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf venation:** reticulate  
**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:** lavender; pink; red; white; yellow  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering; fall flowering; pleasant fragrance

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** no fruit  
**Fruit length:** no fruit  
**Fruit cover:** no fruit  
**Fruit color:** not applicable  
**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:** medium

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; slightly alkaline  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown  
**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** not applicable  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## **Use and Management**

Cultivars in the 'Harmony' series including 'Harmony Cherry Blossom' and 'Harmony Purple' are well suited for Florida.

Related species: *M. longipetala* var. *bicornis* (Evening Stock) is an unsightly annual that adds night time fragrance to the landscape.