**Matthiola incana Stock, Gillyflower**

Edward F. Gilman and Teresa Howe

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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.

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**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

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**Description**

**Height:** 1 to 2.5 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

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**Foliage**
- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** undulate
- **Leaf shape:** oblanceolate
- **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.