

# Matthiola incana Stock, Gillyflower<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Teresa Howe<sup>2</sup>

## 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.



Figure 1. Stock

## 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 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** 1 to 2.5 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

1. This document is FPS402, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date October 1999. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; and Teresa Howe, coordinator, Research Programs/Services, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

## 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.