Stock

Matthiola incana



Stock flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Brompton Stock

Description:

A biennial or tender perennial producing tall spikes of highly fragrant flowers in late spring; blooms range from pink, purple, red, white, lavender, and yellow; plants tend to decline under mid-summer temperatures; a popular cut flower

Ornamental Features

Stock features showy spikes of fragrant pink flowers with purple overtones rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its tomentose oval leaves remain grayish green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Stock is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Stock is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Stock will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Stock is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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