

# Stock Iron Series - (Matthiola)

- Great accent item that provides fragrance, volume and colour to bouquets and arrangements
- Suitable for greenhouse production

Stock (Matthiola) is an old-time favourite that has never gone out of style.

The Iron series combines all the desirable characteristics of the standard stock, such as sweet fragrance, bright colours, plus an amazingly full flower spike.

This full-blooming spike makes it desirable in flower arrangements as well as in the increasingly popular bouquet business. It's an excellent choice for high-end flower decorations, too.

WE CARRY A WIDE SELECTION OF SERIES - ASK US FOR MORE INFORMATION

## CULTURAL INFORMATION

### *Matthiola incana*

*Note: Stock seed produce both single and double flowers.*

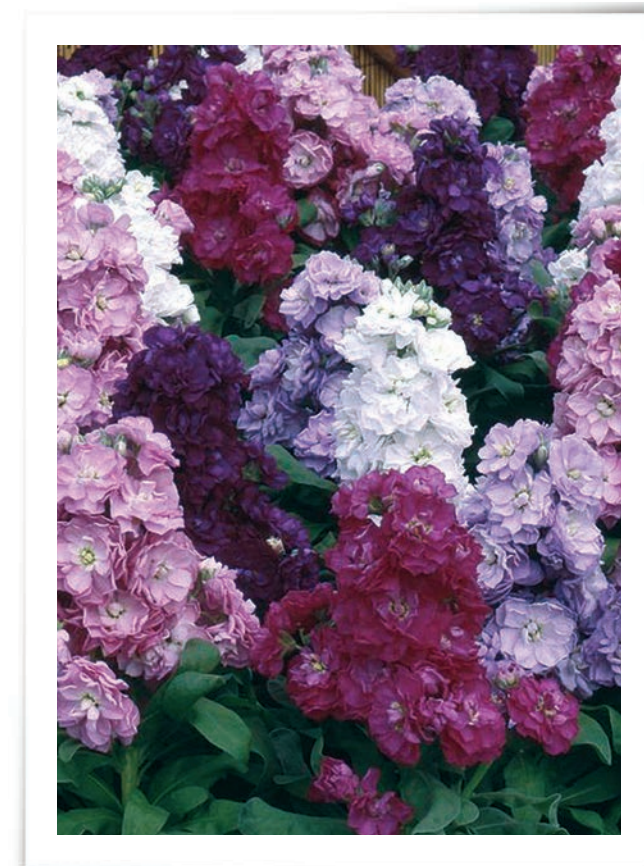
**CROP TIME:** 11 weeks. Crop time is dependent on day-length and light intensity. As a general rule, with day-length of 13 hours or more, the crop time will be 10 weeks. Shorter days will slow down the crop time (depending on the temperature) to 15 weeks.

**PLANTING DENSITY:** One plant per 15 x 20cm netting square.

**PRE-PLANTING:**

- **SOIL:** Well-drained, loose soil at least 25cm deep. Avoid hard packed soil.
- **pH:** 5.0 to 6.0
- **NETTING:** One level of support netting 15 x 20cm is recommended.

**IRRIGATION:** Begin production with overhead irrigation, then switch to drip irrigation one week after transplant. Keep at field capacity for the first four weeks, depending on the climatic conditions.



Allow to dry slightly between waterings; the more mature the plants are, the drier you can go. In the end, go a little drier to get a stronger stem and a better flower form.

Avoid conditions that are too wet or too dry. Wet conditions can cause diseases. Dry conditions can cause wilting and lower leaf chlorosis, which then exposes plants to other infections.

**FERTILISATION:** Begin fertilisation one week after transplanting and continue fertilising until the end of the crop time. When stock is sown on a rotation program with crops that are heavily fertilised (i.e. carnations), there is no need to fertilise the first sowing after the rotation. Apply potassium nitrate starting on week six to improve the flower spike. Ideal EC: 1.0 to 1.3.

**HARVEST:** Stems can be harvested when 35% to 50% of

the flowers are open, depending on your market demand. Begin hydrating newly cut flowers while still in the greenhouse

**POST HARVEST:** Floral preservatives are useful in extending vase life. Use anti-shatter for two hours and then use a bactericide solution for at least eight hours before putting into coolers. Stems should be pre-cooled prior to shipping at a temperature of 34F (1C) for an optimal postharvest life. Stems can be packed flat.

**INSECTS AND DISEASES:**

- Leafminer (especially when plants are young)
- Sclerotinia
- Caterpillars
- Thrips
- Downy mildew
- Bacteria blight
- Botrytis• Pythium
- Fusarium
- Xanthomonas