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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**hol·ly·hock** 🗣️ (hŏl ē-hŏk')

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*n.*

A tall plant (*Alcea rosea* syn. *Althaea rosea*) in the mallow family, native to the Middle East and widely cultivated for its showy clusters of very large, variously colored flowers. Also called *althea*.

[Middle English *holihocke*, marsh mallow : *holi*, holy; see [HOLY](#) + *hoc*, mallow (from Old English).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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