

Heathers and heaths are easy care evergreen plants that can give year-round garden color. With careful planning, you can have varieties in bloom every month of the year. Foliage colors include shades of green, gray, gold, and bronze; some varieties change color or have colored tips in the winter or spring. Flower colors are white and shades of pink, red, and purple. Heathers make excellent companions to rhododendrons and azaleas. They are also excellent in rock gardens or on slopes. Bees love traditional heaths and heathers; however, the new bud-bloomer Scotch heathers, whose flowers are long-lasting because they don't open completely, do not provide good bee forage, nor do the new foliage-only series. Choose other varieties if that is a consideration.

Heathers grow best in neutral to slightly acid soil with good drainage. A sandy soil mixed with compost or leaf mold is ideal. Heathers bloom best in full or partial sun. Plants will grow in a shady location but will not bloom as well and tend to get leggy. They will not do well in areas of hot reflected sunlight.

To plant heather, work compost into the planting area, then dig a hole at least twice the width of the rootball. Partially fill with your amended soil and place the plant at the same level it grew in the container. Excess soil over the rootball will kill the plant. For the same reason, do not mulch too deeply or allow mulch to touch the trunks. Normally a spacing of 12-30" apart is good, depending on the variety. The first year, water regularly—about once a week in hot weather.

Fertilize lightly with **Dr. Earth Acid Lovers Fertilizer** or **E. B. Stone Rhody, Azalea, & Camellia Food** once in February or March, then again in June. Excessive fertilizer will cause heathers to lose their naturally compact form. Heathers do not need heavy watering once the plants are well established; an occasional deep watering during the dry season will be more beneficial than frequent sprinklings. Pruning should be done as needed to keep plants bushy.

VARIETIES

CALLUNA VULGARIS (Scotch Heather) ranges from small mounds or carpets 2” high to shrubs 3 feet high. Plants can be prostrate and spreading or bushy and upright, depending on variety. Flowers vary from white, pink, purple and crimson in single and double forms. **Bud-bloomers** (listed with **BB** after their name) have flowers that don’t open completely; they therefore hold their color for an unusually long time. The Skyline, Seastar, and “Z” series are primarily grown for their foliage. Calluna foliage is usually smooth leaved in shades of olive green, silver, gold or bronze, with some varieties changing color with the season. Scotch heather may be cut back immediately after flowering, except for late flowering varieties, which should not be pruned until the following spring. The sooner pruning is done, the sooner growth starts for the next season’s bloom.

Calluna vulgaris / Scotch Heather				
Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Growth Habit	Foliage Color
Alicia (BB)	White	Aug.-Nov.	10-12”X12-15”	Bright green
Athene (BB)	Red	Sept.-Dec.	16”X16”	Light green
Barcelona (Skyline series)	Sparse, white	N/A	Upright, 13-24”	Green turning to bright yellow at tips
Blazeaway	Lavender	Aug.-Sept.	Upright, 14”x24”	Gold turning red and orange
Claire (BB)	White	Aug.-Sept.	12”	Bright green
County Wicklow	Double pink	July-Sept.	Spread, 12”x20”	Medium green
Dark Beauty	Pink to ruby	Aug-Oct.	Compact, 10”x18”	Dark green
Dart’s Flamboyant	Mauve	July-Sept.	Spread, 7”X18”	Bronzy yellow, deep red in spring
Firefly	Deep Mauve	Aug-Sept.	Round, 15”x18”	Terracotta
Flamingo	Lavender	Aug-Sept	Upright, 12”x18”	Dark with red-pink new growth
Garden Girls (BB) (three in one pot)	Pink, White	Aug-Dec.	Mound, 13-24”	Three contrasting foliage colors
Golden Angie (BB)	Crimson	Aug.-Nov.	Upright, 13-24”	Golden
H. E. Beale	Shell Pink	Aug.-Oct	Round, 14”x24”	Green-brown
Hilda (BB)	Violet-blue	Sept-Dec.	Upright, 12”X10”	Green
Hoyerhaugen	Pale crimson	July-Sept.	Upright, 12”X15”	Golden, deep red in spring
Katja (BB)	Light red	Sept. – Dec.	Upright	Bright green
Kerstin	Heliotrope	Aug.-Sept.	Upright, 12”x16”	Lilac gray/ red & yellow tips
Kinlochruel	White, Double	Aug.-Oct.	Mound, 12”x18”	Dark green

Calluna vulgaris / Scotch Heather, continued				
Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Growth Habit	Foliage Color
Las Vegas (Skyline series)	Sparse, lilac		Upright, 13-24"	Green turning yellow then orange at tips
Laura (BB)	Deep purple	Aug.-Nov.	Mound, 12"x18"	Deep green
Leslie Slinger	Lavender	Aug.-Sept	8"x14"	Green; salmon to red Tips
Michelle (BB)	Pink	Aug.-Nov.	10-12" x 12-15"	Bright green
Multicolor	Mauve	Aug.-Oct.	Low, 6" x 12"	Green & gold turning red & orange in winter
Pyramid Purple	Light purple	July-Oct.	Upright, 24"x18"	Medium green
Radnor	Shell-Pink, Dbl	July-Sept.	Mound, 9"x16"	Bright green
Red Fred	Lilac Pink	Aug-Sept	Upright, 12'x16"	Light green, red new growth
Renate (BB)	Purple	Aug.-Nov.	18-24"	Dark green
Salsa (BB)	Hot pink/red		7-10"	Dark green
Seastar	Foliage only	N/A	Spreading, 12-24"	Bright yellow turning orange, then fiery red
Silver Knight	Pale lavender	Aug.-Sept.	Erect 20"x24"	Silvery gray
Siska (BB)	Bright red	Aug.-Nov.	Mound, 9"x18"	Green
Spring Cream	White	Aug.-Nov.	Upright 18"x24"	Cream tips in spring, yellow in winter
Spring Torch	Mauve	Aug.-Oct.	Erect 20"x30"	Light green, bright red to pink tips in spring
Steffi (BB)	Red	Aug.-Nov.	Mound, 6"x12"	Green
Stockholm (Skyline series)	Foliage only	N/A	Upright, 6-12"	Full square stems; bright to deep green
Susanne (BB)	Lilac	Sept.-Nov.	16"X16"	Dark green
Sydney (Skyline series)	Foliage only	N/A	Upright, 6-12"	Full square stems; chartreuse green
Tessa (BB)	Bright pink	Sept.-Dec.	Bushy, 16"	Golden
Velvet Fascination	White	Aug-Sept	Upright, 18"x28"	Silver gray
Verenka (BB)	White	Aug.-Nov.	Mound, 12"X18"	Green
Wickwar Flame	Lavender	Aug.-Sept.	Upright 15"X20"	Orange/Red
Winter Chocolate	Lavender	Aug-Oct.	Spread, 10"x18"	Gold turning chocolate
Yellow Beauty	Dark rose-red	Aug-Oct	13"-24"	Yellow
Zalina (BB)	Light purple	Sept.-Nov.	Upright, 12"	Dark green to black
Zentastic -mix of Zoe, Zeta & Zulu	Sparse, white		Upright, 6-12"	Yellow, red, and nearly black
Zeta	White	July-Sept.	Upright, 6-12"	Bright yellow
Zilly (BB)	White to pink	Aug.-Dec.	Bushy, 6-12"	Silvery
Zoe	Foliage only	N/A	Upright, 6-12"	Orange to red
Zulu	Foliage only	N/A	Upright, 6-12"	Dark green to black

ERICA SPECIES (Summer and Winter Heath) are popularly grown for fall and winter garden color. Most varieties are prostrate in habit and fast growing. Fine, narrow leaves usually range in color from pale green to deep grayish green. Flowers are bell shaped with a downward trend and are tightly clustered. Prune Ericas to keep them neat and encourage new growth. Shear off the flowers as soon as the blooms have faded on both the winter and early spring flowering varieties.

Erica carnea (Winter Heath) is a very hardy low-growing species; it can form a winter-blooming carpet when properly maintained. **Erica x darleyensis (Winter Heather)** is a hardy hybrid; it is upright to bushy. **Erica vagans (Cornish Heath)** is a symmetrical upright plant with stiff stems. **Erica cinerea (Bell Heath or Twisted Heath)** is a less hardy summer-blooming variety with stiff, slender branches and a nice shape. Bell heath flowers are often fragrant. **Erica arborea** and **Erica canaliculata** are both **Tree Heaths** growing to about 6 feet.

Erica carnea / Winter Heath				
Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Growth Habit	Foliage Color
Alan Coates	Red-purple	Feb.-March	6"X12"	Dark green
December Red	Pink turning to purple red	Nov.-April	Spread, 6" X 18"	Medium green
Isabell	White	Feb.-April	Compact, 4-6"	Bright green
Myretoun Ruby	Magenta	Jan.-May	8"x18"	Dark green
Nathalie	Deep purple-red	Jan.-April	4-8"X14-18"	Dark green
Pink Spangles	Shell pink	Jan.-May	9-12" x 24"	Green tipped lime
Rosalie	Bright pink	Jan.-April	Upright, 6"X15"	Bronze Green
Saskia	Rose pink	Feb.-April	8-12" x 24"	Green/bronze
Schneekoppe	White	Jan-April	Low, 5"x12"	Bright green
Springwood Pink	Pink	Jan.-May	Low,spreading 8"	Medium green
Springwood White	White	Jan.-May	Low,spreading 8"	Bright green
Tanja	Large dark red	Feb.-April	6-12"x14"	Dark green
Vivellii	Magenta	Jan-May	Bushy, 9"x14"	Bronzed green
Wintersonne	Lilac/magenta	Feb.-May	6"X18"	Dark green / bronze
Erica cinerea / Bell Heath				
Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Growth Habit	Foliage Color
C. D. Eason	Magenta	June-Sept.	Bushy 9"x 15"	Dark green
Purple Bells (aka P. S. Patrick)	Purple	June-Sept.	Bushy, 12"x18"	Dark green

Erica x darleyensis / Winter Heather				
Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Growth Habit	Foliage Color
Alba	White	Oct.-April	Bushy, 18" x 24"	Green, cream tips in spring
Alice	Red	Jan.- April	Bushy, 18" x 24"	Dark green
Beacon Hill	White, large	Jan.- April	Bushy, 18" x 24"	Medium green
Bicolor (2 varieties in one pot)	Magenta & white	Dec.- May	12-18"	Bronze/green
Darley Dale	Pink	Nov.-May	12"x24"	Mid green
Eva Gold	Magenta	Dec.-Feb	24-36"	Gold in summer, green in winter
Gold Rush	Lilac pink	Dec.-May	18-24" X 30"	Green gold turning orange
J. W. Porter	Heliotrope	Jan-May	Bushy, 10"x16"	Dark green with cream/red tips
Kramer's Red	Magenta	Jan-April	Bushy 15" x 24"	Bronze/green
Lucie	Magenta, large	Jan-April	Bushy, 18" x 24"	Dark bronze green
Mary Helen	Light Pink	Jan-April	10"x18"	Yellow/bronze
Mediterranean Pink	Rose pink	Sept. -May	Bushy, 18" x 36"	Medium green
Mediterranean White	White	Oct.-May	Bushy, 18" x 36"	Dark green
Rubina	Magenta	Nov- April	13"x24"	Dark green
Silberschmelze	Silvery white	Nov-May	18"x30"	Dark green
White Perfection	Pure white	Dec.-May	12-18"X24-30"	Midgreen; gold tips in spring
Other Erica Species/ Hybrids				
Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Growth Habit	Foliage Color
Tree Heaths				
Erica arborea	White, honey-scented	March-April	4-6'X2-3'	Lime green foliage, yellow in spring
'Estrella Gold'				
Cornish Heath				
E.vagans 'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'	Deep rose pink	July-Sept.	Bushy 12"x20"	Dark green