



Aylett Nurseries
The Complete Garden Centre

Heaths & Heathers

Information Leaflet No. 13



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A good selection of heathers will provide you with interest all year round with their varied flowering periods and changing foliage effects. They associate particularly well with dwarf Conifers, Azaleas and Rhododendrons and may be successfully incorporated into a mixed planting scheme.

Heathers are suitable for growing in island beds, on rockeries or in containers. A position in full sun in moist, well-drained soil suits them best. Summer flowering varieties require lime free soil, whilst winter flowering varieties are tolerant of lime. Plant with ericaceous compost and mulch generously with bark. Water freely until established and during hot dry weather.

Once established, heathers make effective ground cover. For impact plant them in bold clumps of one variety of 5 plants or more, at 40-45cm apart. Trim off dead flower heads back to new growth in spring.

SUMMER FLOWERING HEATHERS

CALLUNA VULGARIS – (The common Heather or Ling). Found growing on moorlands throughout the British Isles. All need lime free soil, add ericaceous compost when planting. Do not over feed, best in open sunny position. Trim each spring removing old flower spikes.

CALLUNA VULGARIS – GARDEN GIRLS – Also known as bud-bloomers, this range of heathers are perfect for autumn pots as they flower continuously between august and November in shades of pink and white. Best planted in ericaceous compost.

DABOECIA CANTABRICA – (Irish Bell Heather or St. Dabeoc's heath). Found in Ireland and the Mediterranean. Hardy evergreen plants. Large flowers on terminal racemes are pendant and bell-shaped. Best on moist, lime-free soil. Plant with Ericaceous compost. Trim as needed in spring.

TREE HEATHS – ERICA ARBOREA, ERICA LUSITANICA, ERICA x VEITCHII.
Tall growing, spring flowers. Needs lime free soil. Plant with plenty of ericaceous compost. Young plants should be shaped in early years to avoid untidy growth. Requires a sunny sheltered site. Can be damaged by heavy snow, but should break from base again.

WINTER FLOWERING HEATHERS

ERICA CARNEA AND ERICA X DARLEYENSIS DO HAVE SOME LIME TOLERANCE.

ERICA CARNEA – (Winter or alpine Heath). Very hardy, growing on most soils - even alkaline. Will tolerate some shade and atmospheric pollution. Flowers are produced throughout winter months, even flowering through frost and snow. Plant with ericaceous compost and mulch with bark chippings. All are low growing and eminently suited to use as ground cover. Lightly trim off old flower spikes in spring after flowering. Good spreading ground cover.

ERICA ERIGENA (Irish or Spring Heath) - Spring flowering and will grow in a range of soils, lime tolerant. Plant in ericaceous compost and mulch with bark chippings or cocoa shell. All make shapely plants, taller than most and bear honey-scented flowers. Valuable as specimen plants or in groups. Needs a sunny site with some shelter. Hardy down to -10°C, snow can cause some damage due to the brittle nature of the branches. Light prune after flowering when needed.

**This leaflet is available in
alternative formats.**

Please ask a member of staff or
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