Scotch Heather

Calluna vulgaris

Height: 15 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Description:

The traditional Scottish heather, makes a wonderful groundcover, flowers throughout summer; very particular about growing conditions, needs acidic organic soil, will die in anything else

Ornamental Features

Scotch Heather features tiny spikes of pink bell-shaped flowers with purple overtones at the ends of the branches from mid summer to mid fall. It has green evergreen foliage. The needles remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Scotch Heather is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Scotch Heather is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Scotch Heather in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Scotch Heather flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Scotch Heather will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have sandy, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.