

Erica cinerea

COMMON NAME

Bell heather

FAMILY

Ericaceae

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

NVS CODE

ERICIN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

HABITAT

Low stature shrub and tussock communities

FEATURES

Small shrub sometimes very low and mat forming. Lvs in whorls of three sometimes opposite, 3–6 mm long, revolute with contiguous margins concealing the lower surface, glabrous except sometimes ciliolate margin. Petioles very short. Fls in terminal racemes, sometimes appearing umbellate. Corolla c. 6 mm long, urceolate, purple, rose, pink or occasionally white, glabrous. Style sometimes sticks out a bit from the corolla. Capsule c. 1.5 mm long.

FLOWERING

December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

W. Europe

ETYMOLOGY

erica: From the Greek ereika 'heath' or 'heather'

cinerea: Ash-grey

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Dispersal

People often grow cultivars of this plant

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erica-cinerea/>



Tawhai Falls Track, Ruapehu. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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