

Erica vagans

COMMON NAMES

Cornish heath

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A vigorous bushy evergreen shrub to 50-70 cm tall. It has feathery bright green foliage on ascending stems. The needle-like leaves (6-15 mm long) occur as whorls of 4, and roll outwards. The pink or rose flowers (often white in cultivation) are tubular to bell-shaped, and occur as small clusters in terminal or axillary panicles. The corolla is 3-4 mm long and hairless, with long black anthers, 6-15 mm long. Flowering takes place between Dec-May. Seed capsules have not been seen in NZ.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Erica

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Erica vagans L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December, January, February, March, April, May

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

West Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

ETYMOLOGY

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



ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026