

Erica cinerea

COMMON NAME

bell heather

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Erica cinerea L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ERICIN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Low stature shrub and tussock communities

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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

LIFE CYCLE

People often grow cultivars of this plant and are the chief dispersers.

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

W. Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

ETYMOLOGY

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

cinerea: Ash-grey

MORE INFORMATION

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



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