

# Erica cinerea

## COMMON NAMES

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



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## 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-cinerea/>

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024