Ann Sparkes Heath

Erica carnea 'Ann Sparkes'



Ann Sparkes Heath flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Spring Heath, Snow Heath, Winter Heath

Description:

An excellent groundcover with bright pink tubular flowers in late winter and bluish-green needle-like foliage, ideal for poor soils, also great for massing in the garden; requires organic highly acidic soil, full sun and absolutely no standing water

Ornamental Features

Ann Sparkes Heath is blanketed in stunning spikes of hot pink bell-shaped flowers with red overtones rising above the foliage from late winter to early spring. It has bluish-green evergreen foliage which emerges green in spring. The tiny needles remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Ann Sparkes Heath 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 only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Ann Sparkes Heath is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Ann Sparkes Heath will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.