W.T. Rackliff Heath

Erica mediterranea 'W.T. Rackliff'



W.T. Rackliff Heath flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Mediterranean Heath

Description:

An almost sperical variety covered in white flowers in late fall through mid winter over deep green 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

W.T. Rackliff Heath is covered in stunning spikes of white bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from late fall to late winter. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The tiny needles remain dark green throughout the winter.



W.T. Rackliff Heath in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

W.T. Rackliff 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.

W.T. Rackliff Heath is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

W.T. Rackliff Heath will grow to be about 18 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 applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.