Alice Heath

Erica x darleyensis 'Alice'



Alice Heath flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Darley Dale Heath

Description:

One of the toughest and more tolerant of heaths to a variety of soils and moisture conditions, this variety features red-pink flowers along upright spikes in late winter and early spring; makes a great groundcover in a mass planting

Ornamental Features

Alice Heath is clothed in stunning spikes of red bell-shaped flowers with pink overtones rising above the foliage from late winter to early spring. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The tiny needles remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Alice 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.

Alice Heath is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Alice Heath will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium 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 not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.