Velvet Night Heath

Erica cinerea 'Velvet Night'



Velvet Night Heath flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Twisted Heath

Description:

An excellent groundcover or garden touch for poor, acid soils, featuring dark, blackish purple flowers throughout summer over dark green evergreen foliage; requires organic highly acidic soil, full sun and absolutely no standing water

Ornamental Features

Velvet Night Heath is smothered in stunning spikes of deep purple bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from early summer to early fall. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The tiny needles remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Velvet Night 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 and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Velvet Night Heath is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Velvet Night Heath will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, 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 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.