

Spring Heath

(Erica carnea)

Evergreen shrub 7 to 15 inches tall, with spread of 24 to 36 inches. Spiky stems are crowded with little dark green leaves. Plant is similar to heather.

Zone: 5-10

Light: sun or light shade

Comments

Useful for cover and color on well-drained banks and slopes. Many varieties available in different colors. In mild winter areas (zones 7 to 10), may flower in January and provide color up to four months or more. In zones 5 to 7, blooms in February to May, depending on location. Tolerates many soils, but best in acid soils. Needs full sun in the North; light shade in hot zones 9 to 10. Tolerates seaside salt spray and winds. Space plants 24 to 36 inches apart. Keep watered. Start new plants from divisions of old plants. Cut off faded blooms.