



Lorne Gill/SNH



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Peter Henning

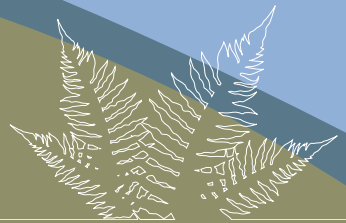


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Heathland



Heathland

Heathland in Scotland is an open expanse of small shrubby plants, like heather, that carpet hillsides, but it can also be found on low-lying sandy areas, often near the coast. Heaths and bogs can look quite similar, but heathlands grow on thin peaty or sandy soils and are very much drier than bogs.

The open look of heathland is often maintained through grazing by animals or by burning. Heathland plants are very sensitive to this, and too much burning or grazing can make the heath plants die and it can turn into a rough grassland, much poorer in wildflowers.

Flowering time: Heathland plants are best seen from late spring to late summer.



Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*)

– A small, low-growing evergreen shrub with red stems and small, needle-like, glossy green leaves. The tiny purplish flowers are insignificant, but Crowberry can

be more easily recognized by its round, black berry.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Heather, or Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*)

– A bushy shrub with small, needle-like leaves pressed close to the stem. Flowers are small, pink-purple bells, and line the tips of the

leafy spikes. The most common upland shrub.

Location: _____
Date: _____

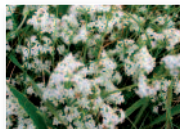


Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*)

– A small shrub with short, needle-like leaves arranged in whorls of three along the stem. The flowers are reddish-purple oval bells, clustered on spikes

above the leaves. Grows on drier moorland soils and rocky ledges.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*)

– A small, slender, creeping plant with whorls of six to eight narrow, oval leaves along a thin, square stem. The leaves have small prickles

along the edges. The flowers are small and white with four petals, forming clusters on stem tips.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*)

– A small shrub with bright green oval leaves on smooth, twisted twigs. Flowers are small green-pink globes, but Blaeberry is more easily

recognised by its reddish berries, turning blue-black in summer.

Location: _____
Date: _____



Whin, or Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

– A large evergreen shrub with many sharp green spines. Its golden yellow flowers, with a distinctive coconut scent, bloom from

spring through to autumn. Not to be confused with Broom which has no spines.

Location: _____
Date: _____

Plantlife

Plantlife Scotland
Balallan House
Allan Park
Stirling
FK8 2QG

Tel: 01786 469778/478509

Email: scotland@plantlife.org.uk

www.plantlife.org.uk

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