

## Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)



Shrub



*Small, bell-shaped flowers Dec. to Mar.*

Heather is a low-growing, evergreen plant growing up to 90 cm in height. Commonly identified with Scottish moors and mountains, in New Zealand it is an invasive weed of tussock grassland in several areas. The plant tolerates cold, some shade and poor soils.

Generally dense and compact, heather forms thick mats of vegetation. It has small scale-like leaves arranged in four rows. The flowers are small, bell-shaped, appearing in December to March. The fruit capsules break open to disperse seed and suckering from the roots allows the plant to form dense stands.

Small infestations can be dug out. Herbicide applied by spray or weed wiper will give some control, but repeated applications are necessary.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**