**Heather**Wikipedia entry first 2 paragraphs

**Calluna vulgaris**, **common heather**, **ling**, or simply **heather**,is the sole species in the [genus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus) **Calluna** in the [flowering plant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flowering_plant) family [Ericaceae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ericaceae). It is a low-growing [evergreen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evergreen) [shrub](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrub) growing to 20 to 50 centimetres (8 to 20 in) tall, or rarely to 1 metre (40 in) and taller, and is found widely in Europe and Asia Minor on [acidic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acid) soils in open sunny situations and in moderate shade.

It is the dominant plant in most [heathland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heath) and [moorland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moorland) in Europe, and in some [bog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bog) vegetation and acidic [pine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine) and [oak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak) woodland. It is tolerant of grazing and regenerates following occasional burning, and is often managed in nature reserves and grouse [moors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moorland) by sheep or cattle grazing, and also by light burning.

It is present here because the soil is acid and well-drained and the exposition is sunny. It was used to roof the modest dwellings of clog-makers and charcoal-burners. It was also used to stuff mattresses and to make brooms. Bees are attracted to it and the honey is much appreciated.