Leslie Slinger Heather

Calluna vulgaris 'Leslie Slinger'



Leslie Slinger Heather foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Scotch Heather, Ling Heather

Description:

An attractive selection with yellow to coral-orange new growth, over mid-green foliage; upright racemes of small lavender flowers in late summer; very particular about growing conditions, needs acidic organic soil, will die in anything else

Ornamental Features

Leslie Slinger Heather features tiny spikes of lavender bell-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from late summer to early fall. It has attractive coral-pink-variegated green foliage with hints of chartreuse which emerges yellow in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding red in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Leslie Slinger Heather 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 not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Leslie Slinger Heather is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Leslie Slinger Heather will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 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 requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have sandy, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. 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.

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