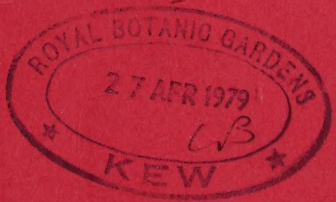


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**YEAR BOOK
OF THE
HEATHER
SOCIETY**



1979



THE HEATHER SOCIETY

Affiliated Societies:

Nederlandse Heidevereniging 'Ericultura'

Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde

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Editorial

Reading the first page of this Year Book shows that, once again in 1978, changes have occurred in the Heather Society. The post of President, which has been vacant since the death of Sir John Charrington in July 1977, has now been filled by Mr. C.D. Brickell, who was elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in September. Elsewhere in this issue he writes on another major step in the continuing development of the Heather Society, the establishment of a National Reference Collection of heathers which is to be set up at the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley.

On a less happy note, the name of Mr. J.P. Ardron has disappeared from the list of Vice-Presidents of the Society. Mrs. C.I. MacLeod has contributed a tribute to him in this Year Book.

Also this year the name of Mr. B.G. London is missing from the list of Council members. Jack has retired after serving continuously on, first, the Committee and then the Council since 1965, two years after the formation of the Heather Society. He was also the Advertising Manager of the Year Book from 1970 to 1977. Fortunately, the Society is not losing his services entirely, as he is continuing in the important job of Group Convenor to the Norfolk Branch.

Another retirement that is shown on the first page is that of Mr. A.J. Stow who has relinquished the post of Editor of the Year Book. He first became associated with it in 1973 as Assistant to P.S. Patrick. On "Pat's" death in 1974, Arnold became Editor. Happily, he remains a member of Council.

Both Jack London and Arnold Stow have given to the Heather Society in generous measure those most precious commodities, their time, energy and enthusiasm. I am sure that all members of the Society would wish to thank them for their past (and future) labours.

We welcome Mr. Neil Brummage, the Norfolk nurseryman, as our new Slide Librarian. He takes office at a time when the Slide Library is being reviewed and would welcome offers of slides from anyone who wishes to donate them.

Threats to our natural heathlands are many and varied. Some, which at first seem catastrophic, on further consideration fall into their true perspective. Others which have gone un-noticed prove to be very serious. A case in point is provided by the Dorset Heaths which are threatened by oil production and the winning of ball clay. A professional scientist who is concerned with the conservation of the heaths is of the opinion that the minimal disturbance produced by drilling and the laying of pipelines will soon disappear and that the effects of the removal of ball clay need only be temporary. The heaths have always been disturbed by man to some extent. However the size of one of the heaths has been drastically reduced by the encroachment of agriculture in recent years. This heath is now recovering from the effects of the fires of 1976 and it is Rose-bay Willow-herb (*Epilobium angustifolium*) and farm land weeds which are establishing themselves in place of the heather.

The President Writes

C.D. Brickell, Wisley, Surrey

The success of the Heather Society and its steady and continued expansion since its inception in 1963 is a remarkable example of how the enthusiasm and work of a few can be transformed into a thriving organisation which has world-wide links. Specialist societies have a very important part to play in horticulture. As with all horticultural societies, they act as focal points, gathering together people whose hobby or profession - sometimes both - is gardening. The difference lies in their enthusiasm for a particular plant or group of plants and the resulting stimulus, which increases greatly the popularity and knowledge of the plants concerned.

Our own Society is a prime example of the beneficial results of bringing together people with similar gardening interests. Heathers, once a spattering of names in nurserymen's catalogues, have expanded vastly in numbers and now form a major sector of interest. They provide colour and form unthought of fifteen years ago and their uses in the garden landscape have multiplied greatly. Our knowledge of their history, cultivation and hybridisation has expanded enormously and has resulted in the Society being recognised as the International Registration Authority for cultivar names of heathers.

This important work, and the production of the Register, which in due course will become the standard for all heather names, is perhaps less well known to members than other aspects of the Society's activities. The aim is to stabilise and control the multitude of cultivar names which have appeared and will no doubt continue to appear - a benefit to us all. Names, however, are of little use without living plants and it is hoped that the establishment of a National Reference Collection of heathers at Wisley during the next few years will provide a means of direct comparison which will benefit all heather enthusiasts. In addition to accommodating new introductions, the collection will act as a reservoir for preserving old cultivars and provide a living reference library for those who want to see the growth, habit and flower or foliage potential of their heathers before purchasing them.

It is somewhat daunting to follow such distinguished and knowledgeable heather enthusiasts as Fred Chapple and Sir John Charrington as your President. I hope, however, that a happy association which began more than ten years ago when I joined the Heather Society and rashly ventured into the fraught field of heather names will continue for many years to come.

From the Chairman

Maj-Gen. P. G. Turpin, West Clandon, Surrey

It gives me great pleasure to welcome as our new President Chris Brickell, who for the last nine years has been Director of the R. H. S. Garden at Wisley. Not only is he an eminent botanist, but he has also made a name for himself as a distinguished horticulturalist, and two years ago was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour, the highest award which the Royal Horticultural Society can bestow. He has been a member of the Heather Society for many years. He has shown a special interest in heathers and has written about them in the R. H. S. Journal. We are indeed fortunate in having such a very widely respected successor to Sir John Charrington.

1978 has been noteworthy in other ways. We have strengthened our ties with Eriocaula, our Dutch sister society, and with the Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde, our German counterpart and already are in close touch with the Pacific North West Heather Society. The fourth edition of the "Pocket Guide to Heather Gardening" appeared in September. In this enlarged publication Geoffrey Yates has collected together the most up-to-date information on most of the varieties of heather which are available commercially in this country and on the Continent. It also includes the first complete list of all heather names, compiled by the Society's Registrar, David McClintock. This is the first positive step that the Society has taken in its capacity as an International Registration Authority. It has been a formidable task and let us hope that it will be rewarded by a greater degree of sanity in the naming of so-called new varieties. As long ago as 1927, when the list of available heathers in Maxwell and Beale's catalogue was less than one hundred, D. F. Maxwell in "The Low Road" was deploring the indiscriminate proliferation of new names. Although his nursery was responsible for as many as

most, great care was taken only to name a heather which had proved its value (sometimes over a period as long as seven years). How shocked he would be, if he were alive today, to see some of the plants which have been given names! We must, all of us, be much more discriminating and only name a plant, if we are quite sure that it is different from existing cultivars and is a distinct improvement on similar heathers.

The Secretary's Report

Mrs. Pamela B. Lee, Hindhead, Surrey

As you may have suspected from the long lists of new members which have been appearing in, or with, the Bulletins recently, our Society is continuing to benefit from much fresh interest. Membership has risen to around 1070, new members more than compensating for those that we have sadly lost through retirement. People have different reasons for dropping out, but the most common is advanced age (one lady has just reluctantly decided to reduce her activities at the age of 95!) and many of the resignations are accompanied by letters of appreciation for the enjoyment and interest they have had from the Society.

The Annual Conference continues to be a successful feature of our national programme and members who have not yet attended one should not be put off by the word "Conference". There are so many helpful informal discussions during the weekend and much else of general interest, even to the non-gardening husband or wife. As it is held in a different part of the country each year, there is a wonderful opportunity to attend initially as a day visitor when it is in your area, and we would always welcome suggestions for future venues where there are suitable residential centres.

This year saw some new names appearing among the winners of the Heather Competitions at the R. H. S. Shows in London in February and August, but more entries are needed to ensure the retention of heather classes in these important Shows.

There is no doubt that the continued health of the Society depends to a large extent on a programme of activities organised within reasonable reach of many members' homes, and it is most encouraging to hear of Local Group activities around the country. In the past twelve months the established Groups - the Northern, Midlands, Mid Southern, South West, Norfolk and West of Scotland - have all been busy with events advertised and reported in the Bulletins. We are pleased to hear that the Farther West Group has started to meet again and we wish them well; we earnestly hope that whispers of small groups meeting in other parts of the United Kingdom will materialise very soon so that every member has the opportunity to participate in Society activities.

J. P. Ardron: A Tribute

*Mrs. C. I. MacLeod, Yew Trees,
Horley Row, Surrey*

With the death of John Ardron on 27th July 1978, the Heather Society lost the last of a great triumvirate: Fred Chapple, Hugh Prew and John Ardron, all founder members of a very small new Society. They shaped the scheme of things to come by bringing in the members of the North and Midlands with a forthright determination that was altogether admirable.

A fine photographer himself, John Ardron welcomed the setting up of the Slide Library under Mr. Prew, while Fred Chapple, the author, was a friend of

many years' standing. John Ardron's name in particular will always be remembered for inaugurating perhaps the most important piece of research ever undertaken by members of a small specialist horticultural society: the Harlow Car Heather Trials.

Using his influence with the Northern Horticultural Society based on the Harlow Car Gardens, Harrogate, he obtained the space necessary for planting out the many young plants that had been received following a list of "wanted" cultivars he had sent to all members. He would have been the first to pay tribute to the work done by the recording and weeding teams, without which the five years' records compiled and edited by Peter Vickers could not have been achieved.

Socially, John Ardron was ever happy to arrange visits to famous gardens in the North. Sheffield became a focal point for publicity and to him goes the credit for arranging our first weekend Conference in 1971 at Grantley Hall, Ripon. It is sad that he was not destined to attend the 1978 Conference in the Peak District for which he had undertaken the arrangements.

Losehill Hall 1978

A. J. Stow, Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire

It was in August 1971, following his invitation earlier in the year, that John Ardron welcomed members to Grantley Hall in Yorkshire and the first ever Heather Society Conference was under way. I wrote in my report of that Conference that one could not help but be carried along by the sheer enthusiasm of that friendly Yorkshireman.

Alas history was not to be repeated, because in July, having laid the foundations for this year's Conference, his death robbed us of the opportunity of meeting him

again on what was virtually his home ground, but thanks are due to Peter Vickers and his band of helpers for stepping in and carrying on the task of running the proceedings during the weekend.

Our Chairman, Pat Turpin, in his opening remarks, mentioned that he felt sure that John Ardron would have wanted the occasion to be a joyous one and indeed it was.

Stuart Anthony, the field lecturer on the staff at this Peak District Study Centre then briefed us on the local scene and few members will readily forget his multi-slide presentation to the accompaniment of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony.

Then there followed a light-hearted group quiz based on sketches each with a loose connection with a heath or heather. The selection of each group had obviously been carefully arranged to ensure that the less intelligent of us were kept apart to ensure that each group was similarly afflicted.

A few slides were then shown by members before a general adjournment, mainly to the bar where discussion on all aspects of heather growing continued well after last orders and for some members well into the early hours of the following morning, as indeed was the case on the following evening.

On the Saturday morning, Geoffrey Yates, whose new "Pocket Guide" is now available, mentioned a few of the more noteworthy recently introduced cultivars, after which a discussion took place on the merits or otherwise of other new introductions.

After coffee, Pat Turpin, David McClintock and Bert Jones spoke in turn on hybrid cultivars and how to identify them, before the former two summarised their recent visit to Germany and Holland, during which they were most hospitably received by enthusiasts in both countries.

The formalities of the A.G.M. were efficiently dealt with after lunch and then there was a choice for the rest of the afternoon. A visit to the local Blue John Stone mine, a six mile return walk up Losehill to sample, I subsequently learnt, the (literally) breath-taking view of the magnificent Edale Valley in gale force winds which an intrepid band undertook, or a visit to the Hadfields' garden close by, which I opted for. This had the added attraction of refreshments on the terrace with splendid views over typical Peak District countryside, fortunately not marred by mining or quarrying activities. All this and the chance to linger in a lovely garden convinced me that I had chosen wisely!

After dinner David Small gave a talk on how he has tackled the limestone soil in his garden with the aid of a frightening range of chemicals. Not recommended this for the ordinary member, but the ensuing discussion did offer members who have to contend with these conditions some useful information. This included the use of Fortone E, Perlite, and powdered sea-weed, the latter two being of particular benefit for aiding moisture retention, so often lacking on chalky soils.

On Sunday the published programme suggested that Peter Vickers was due to speak on the subject, "From Cuttings to Heather Garden". In fact, although he ably demonstrated that cuttings can be successfully rooted with partial neglect as compared with excessive pampering, he never advanced as far as the heather garden. This was due, it must be admitted, to the audience who obviously wished to know more of his methods and light heartedly challenged him on various points.

The Conference was then pleased to welcome the Superintendent of the Harlow Car Gardens, J.D. Main, who gave an illustrated talk concerning plants to associate with our heathers which, after coffee, was followed by a general forum before Pat Turpin officially closed the Conference.

Every Conference report must reflect the impressions of the writer and this Conference, like the other five that I have had the pleasure of attending, was a

weekend of immense interest and friendliness; a time to relax and immerse oneself in a common interest. As our host, Peter Vickers said, "A Conference is a time to re-charge the batteries". Derbyshire was no exception and we look forward to Dorset in August 1979.

Heather Gardens No. 5

Wakehurst Place, Sussex

Maj.-Gen. P.G. Turpin, West Clandon, Surrey

Not far from Haywards Heath, just off the road between Ardingly and Turner's Hill, lies Wakehurst Place in a beautiful stretch of Sussex countryside.

Like other well-known Sussex gardens, Wakehurst Place has been developed by carefully adapting a natural landscape of great beauty. The higher ground slopes down to a wooded valley where a stream, after flowing through a number of small ponds, opens out into a broad lake. The site provides the mild, moist growing conditions and a mixture of sandy and acid soils, which are particularly suitable for rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants.

In their present form the gardens of Wakehurst Place date from 1903, when Gerald Loder (later Lord Wakehurst) bought the Estate. For the next 35 years he enhanced the natural beauty of the site with plant introductions of such well-known collectors as Farrer, Wilson, Forrest and Kingdon Ward.

On Lord Wakehurst's death in 1938 the Estate was bought by Sir Henry Price, who continued to develop the Gardens until 1963. On his death he bequeathed Wakehurst Place to the National Trust; and two years later it was leased to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as a country complement to Kew Gardens.

The Elizabethan mansion, built by Sir Edward Culpeper in 1590, is used now as laboratories by the Plant Physiology Section which moved from Kew in

1973. The ground floor is open to the public and includes an information bookstall, a natural history section showing the flora and fauna of Wakehurst and illustrations of the soil variability. There is also a refreshment room where lunches and teas are available from spring to late summer.

Close to the Mansion is a small walled garden in which grey and silver-leaved plants mix well with other soft colours to form a restful memorial to Sir Henry Price.

Leaving this garden on the right, a gravel path leads into the Heath Garden, which separates the main lawns in front of the house with their sixty yard long lavender hedge from a larger lawn which slopes down to the Pinetum in a south-westerly direction.

The Heath Garden is one of the many attractive features of Wakehurst; it was established at an early date but it has recently been expanded and enriched by the planting of many of the newer cultivars of heathers and associated plants. The site is an unusual one, in that the island beds, of varying shapes, separated by grass paths, are in many cases dominated by tall conifers up to 30 and 40 feet high, noticeably *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Ellwoodii' and 'Fletcheri' and several golden varieties. Through the middle runs a broad grass path with colourful shrubs on either side.

Although there are less than fifty different varieties of heather, these have been carefully selected to give the best effect in conjunction with the great variety of other shrubs and trees with which they are interplanted. The brightest colours have been avoided and this makes for greater harmony between the pastel shades of the heathers and the infinite variety of the other foliage plants. Brilliant colour is provided in the late spring by the rhododendrons and azaleas, which are relieved by the clear white of *Erica arborea* 'Alpina' and *E. x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze'.

There are many varieties of dwarf *Rhododendron*, *Hebe*, *Juniperus* and *Pernettya*, and several species of *Fabiana*, *Grevillea*, *Leptospermum*, *Osmanthus* and *Vaccinium*, all of which make excellent companion plants for the heathers.

Among a number of interesting plantings are: a group of 85 *E. erigena* 'W.T. Rackliff' surrounding a large plant of *Hebe* 'Great Orme'; *Calluna* 'Blazeaway' with the smokey grey foliage of *Leptospermum lanigerum* as a background and framed by the prostrate *Juniperus conferta* and *Microbiota decussata*; a large patch of *E. carnea* 'Aurea' (looking as well here as anywhere) with the beautiful *Exochorda x macrantha* 'The Bride', *Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius* and *Rhododendron lepidostylum*; an edging of *Calluna* 'Alba Tomentosa' and 'Gold Haze' backed by *E. erigena* 'Coccinea' and *Pieris formosa* var. *forrestii* 'Wakehurst' and *Pinus sylvestris*. Many other happy associations of plants are to be found.

Most of the hardy heather species and hybrids are represented at Wakehurst. I could not find *E. mackaiana*, *E. umbellata*, *E. x watsonii* or *E. x veitchii*, but the others are all there.

Of the tree heaths, *E. arborea* 'Alpina' (12 to 15 feet tall), *E. lusitanica* and *E. terminalis* take their place among the taller shrubs.

In winter and early spring large splashes of colour are provided by *E. carnea* 'King George', 'Vivellii', 'Springwood White' and 'Aurea', the *E. x darleyensis* hybrids and *E. erigena* 'Brightness', 'Coccinea' and 'Superba'. It is instructive to see 'Silberschmelze' and 'White Glow' (now recognised as a cultivar of *E. x darleyensis*) rubbing shoulders on level terms.

E. tetralix is represented by the cultivar 'Con Underwood' and *E. cinerea* by 'Hookstone Lavender' and 'Alba'. *E. ciliaris* is well grown, both in its typical form and in that of 'Corfe Castle'.

E. x stuartii (*praegeri*) 'Connemara' has recently been replaced by the larger-flowered 'Irish Lemon' and 'Irish Orange'.

Daboecia cantabrica spreads its carpets of colour in the forms 'Alba' and 'Atropurpurea' and the hybrid *D. x scotica* 'William Buchanan' is also to be seen.

There are probably more plants of *Calluna* and *E. vagans* than of other species. Although such favourite

Callunas as the 'H.E.Beale' group and the other coloured doubles are missing, *C.v.* 'Ruth Sparkes' with its double white flowers and golden foliage is used to good effect. Other Callunas to be seen are 'Silver Rose', 'Alba Tomentosa', 'Gold Haze', 'Hirsuta Typica', 'Blazeaway' and 'Foxii Nana'.

E. vagans is well represented by bold plantings of 'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell', 'St. Keverne', 'Pyrenees Pink', 'Grandiflora' and 'Lyonesse', in some places trimmed into round clumps and in others forming long banks of colour in September and October.

The Heath Garden is beautifully maintained and when I last visited it at the end of September 1978, the grass edges were perfectly trimmed and the heather beds were entirely weed-free.

The Gardens are open all the year round, and thanks to the care of the Curator, Mr. Tony Schilling, and his Garden Supervisor, Mr. David Mason, a visit at any time will be most rewarding to the heather enthusiast.

The Pros and Cons of Moving

G. Yates, Ambleside, Cumbria

The thought of moving house twice in three years is enough to cause trepidation in most of us, and all plant lovers dread having to leave behind gardens they have made, and plants they have treasured. My family faced the problem of moving both house and business twice in that time, and during that period we experienced the worst climatic extremes; gales followed by the worst drought in living memory after the first move, and the highest autumn rainfall in Cumbria for many years after the second. I hope some of our experiences will give hope to heather lovers faced with a similar problem.

I always believe that fate plays a great part in our lives, and after I had been advised to move to a damper

climate for family health reasons the opportunity to take on a nursery site literally on the water's edge of Windermere was almost too good to be true. Although completely overgrown with every conceivable weed, large trees and without mains water or electricity, the views are superb. Unless you are a sun worshipper, it is a little bit of paradise. One envious visitor envisages me sitting doing cuttings with my fishing rod tied to my toe-possible, but unlikely, as I am no fisherman. Soil with a pH of 5 or less, streams flowing through, and an undulating site are really the sort of thing an ericaceous plant lover dreams about.

If you are in the business of growing plants, stock plants are your life blood, and must be moved to maintain continuity. So, on two occasions, in 1975 and in 1978, we moved over 5,000 plants including large Rhododendrons, Azaleas, alpines, shrubs, trees and by no means least heathers, large and small. By large, I mean up to two or three feet across, but the majority would fill a greengrocer's tomato tray.

Our move in 1975 was only five miles, and despite the drought of 1976, we lost very few heathers, but several hundred large Rhododendrons and Azaleas did succumb. Dwarf Rhododendrons proved very drought tolerant and we lost only three out of hundreds. This time we have moved nearly two hundred miles, and it has taken six large lorry loads and ten thousand miles of motoring with a large trailer to move all our plants. They are still in boxes, sustained by the exceptionally wet weather, and are looking better than when they left the Midlands. Heathers will move as large plants if you move plenty of soil with them, and even Acers, Magnolias and other reputedly difficult movers have enjoyed our moves as much as we have.

I hope the law of averages applies to the weather, and Cumbria now has a few dry weeks to counter-balance all the wet ones, so that we can get the planting done. By Easter 1979 we will be opening a new garden made out of a wilderness. One very great advantage of starting from scratch is that you can make changes, try new ideas and create your own garden, thus making all the effort worthwhile.

Living with Lime

*Harold Street, Chipping Campden,
Gloucestershire*

When we came to live in the Cotswolds in the spring of '76 the only fly in the ointment was that the garden soil was heavy, alkaline clay; wonderfully fertile, but very restrictive for a heather grower. We mulled over various ideas for making a bed of imported acid soil, but in the end decided we would rather have nature as an ally than an adversary and began to count our blessings instead. We still had the satisfaction of having made our last garden, which included more than one hundred and seventy varieties of heather, and now, we could look forward to making the most of new opportunities.

To begin with we had a slice of luck. Through the Heather Society we have made a new friend, Philip Brown, who has taken a close interest in the garden and given us a good deal of expert advice and practical aid. We started with the raised bed, enclosed in a stone wall, which stands in front of the house. It was planted with floribunda roses of a strident colour, and under-planted with daffodils. We dug them all out and naturalised the daffodils in a near-by grass bank. Next the surface of the bed was remodelled to make three low mounds, separated by a long valley with a short off-shoot. In the valleys we planted carneas, graded for flower colour from light to dark; first 'Snow Queen', then seven or eight 'Pink Spangles' and so on through five or six other kinds in groups of varying size, finishing with 'Adrienne Duncan'. One of the mounds we planted predominantly with grey and blue-grey foliage plants, including rue and several kinds of ground-covering Hebes whose blue, pink and white flowers have been in bloom throughout the summer and autumn. A particular favourite is *H. gracillima* with elegant foliage smothered for many weeks with slender racemes of pure white flowers; an excellent back-drop for the carneas. The second mound has clumps of purple, variegated and typical green sage and a number of the smaller spring - and summer -

flowering shrubs. We wanted to include a plant we had of *H. ochracea* ("armstrongii") but we found the ochre foliage difficult to place. Eventually we put it in a corner of the bed and under-planted it with *E. carnea* 'Foxhollow'; they go very well together.

The aim has been to create a harmony of colour, form and texture, changing with the seasons. To this of course the carneas' chief contribution is made in the winter, but in the summer too their bright appearance gives them a major role to play.

In the main garden Philip has re-modelled the rock garden. Here among alpines, a number of carneas are naturally quite at home, and will be at their best when most of their neighbours are still dormant. We also widened an existing border and planted a group of *E. carnea* 'Eileen Porter' in full view of our bedroom window to give a cheerful start to the day through the winter.

We then cut out a new bed in the lawn. This is devoted, in the main, to heathers and conifers. Here again we are giving thought to the balance of colour, form and size. It's not easy though to get it right first time, particularly as you have to allow for growth. However this glorious autumn of '78 has encouraged our favourite pastime of moving plants around a bit. In this soil they thrive on it. (Incidentally, some of the conifers, from dwarfs to five-footers, as well as many of the heathers, have been in the family for years. This is the third address they have shared with us.)

What has pleased us more than we had expected is that heathers we can grow in this limestone area offer us unbroken interest *all the year round*. We should have known it of course, but for us in the past Callunas and other species have taken the limelight in the summer, leaving it to the carneas to keep the show going while some of their number, to put it kindly, were not at their best. The lime-tolerant winter heathers need no such help. No sooner have they ceased flowering than their new foliage give them fresh charm and soon the slowly swelling buds will give them added beauty lasting through the summer months until they flower again.

They would be welcome in a summer garden if indeed this was their only virtue.

With summer gone the carneas, *E. x. darleyensis* erigenas and tree heaths give us continuous blooms from autumn until late spring. And before they are over *E. terminalis* is in full flower. This plant did well enough for us on acid soil but here a group of them are superb, with their distinctive habit of growth making an outstanding feature. (In a cottage garden not far away is an *E. terminalis* at least fifty years old; it is seven feet tall and as shapely a bush as you could wish for, smothered in flowers in summer and in russet seed heads for the rest of the year.)

Our hopes for *E. vagans* were not misplaced. We planted them with plenty of peat and in their second year here they have done splendidly. *Vagans* and *terminalis* had barely finished flowering before *E. carnea* 'Eileen Porter' was beginning to display her lovely blooms again. And quite unexpectedly by the beginning of November *E. erigena* 'Irish Dusk' was in full bloom - a most welcome plant, both for its lovely new shade of pink flowers and its attractive foliage.

We have found a place for a few *E. umbellata*, modest plants whose dainty flowers appeared briefly in the spring; but more intriguing are the umbellatas raised from seed collected in the mountains of Spain by Dr. H.A. McAllister. These did not bloom until August and are still blooming in November - a development we shall watch with interest.

There is one confession we have to make. A year ago we had the opportunity, rare in these parts, of buying a load of lime-free soil. Despite all our going-along-with-nature philosophy we fell for it. So now we have a few Callunas and Daboecias - doing nicely thank you. And just for fun, we have some experiments in hand with Perlite and fritted trace elements.

When we re-planned this garden we were reminded of Gertrude Jekyll's dictum, written in 1901, that fifty varieties then in nurserymen's catalogues were, "far too many for use in any one heather garden". Backed by such

an authority we decided that we had had enough of "collecting" anyway and for the future would choose what heaths to grow solely on their merits. But willy-nilly we seem somehow to be making another, mainly lime-tolerant, collection. The difference is that we don't count them anymore. We just enjoy them.

(Both Mr. Yates and Mr. Street have described the moving of large heathers. We have never had any doubt that this could be done, but it must be borne in mind that after moving they require an adequate supply of moisture, from rain, hose or watering can, until their roots are well established in the soil of their new home. This can take many months.

However it must be remembered that you may not remove plants from a garden you have sold without the approval of the purchaser, unless it has been stipulated in the contract that the vendor may take them. Ed.)

The Good Companions - Hebes

D. Chalk, Edington, Somerset

Just as Hebe, the Cup Bearer, was a delight to the Gods, so too can these New Zealand plants named after her give pleasure to you and interest to your heather garden. Have you considered growing the shrubby Veronicas or Hebes as companion plants? There is a wealth of hardy, evergreen Hebes and Parahebes from a few inches up to about three feet in height, which are more suitable for the heather garden than the taller growing cultivars.

The attractions of the Parahebes are their carpeting habit and their dainty speedwell-like flowers, a quarter of an inch across in white, pinky mauve and blue. *Parahebe catarractae*, the Waterfall Veronica is perhaps the best known, but there are also *P. lyallii* and the thyme-like *P. decora*. Parahebes, which are sub-shrubs and

intermediate between *Veronica* and *Hebe* can tolerate and grow in soils from moderately acid to definitely limey (pH 5.5 to 7.6).

The features of the low growing *Hebes* are the shape of the leaves - round, linear, box-like, oval, whipcord or conifer-like; the colour of the leaves - yellow-green, mid and dark green, light to deep bronze, grey, grey-green, grey-bronze and variegated; colour of stems - yellow-green, green, bronzy-green, dark brown and grey; and colour of flowers - white, pink, mauve, blue, amethyst, purple and violet.

Most *hebes* are rounded in outline, but some are carpeting whilst others are erect. Some whipcords give a spikey effect like *H. ochracea*, with its old gold, spreading and glossy foliage. *H. ochracea* is often sold as *H. armstrongii*, which is more erect with dull yellow-green foliage. Other whipcords have green, conifer-like foliage and even have juvenile and adult foliage, such as *H. cupressoides*. The dwarf *H. cupressoides* 'Broughton Dome' has only the juvenile foliage and is a worthwhile acquisition for a trough or small heather garden. The dwarf *H. loganioides* and the medium height *H. lycopodiodes* with its yellow-green foliage could also be considered. *Hebe* 'Edinensis', with monkey puzzle like foliage, grows to about twelve inches, spreads to about eighteen inches and is worth growing for its unusual form. All whipcord and *H. 'Edinensis'* have white flowers, except *H. cupressoides* which has blue flowers in May.

Further interesting *Hebes* to grow could be the carpeting *H. 'Carl Teschner'* with small green leaves, dark brown stems and small spikes of violet flowers; *H. 'Colwall'*, a more erect cultivar from 'Carl Teschner' with amethyst flowers; *H. 'Caledonia'*, a dwarf shrubby *Hebe* with bronzy stems, grey red-edged leaves and small spikes of violet flowers, also known as *H. 'E. B. Anderson'* and *H. 'County Park'*, which has violet flowers.

There are a number of grey foliated *Hebes* with white flowers to choose from, such as the carpeting *H. 'Pagei'*, *H. carnosula* with shell-like leaves, *H.*

amplexicaulis, grey-green leaves, *H. pinguifolia*, the erect parent of *H. 'Pagei'*, and *H. 'Pewter Dome'*, which make an attractive dome-shaped plant. Hebes making similar dome-shaped plants are *H. vernicosa*, with its lustrous, deep green leaves and the plant sold as *H. alpina* 'Golden Dome' with yellow-green leaves in winter, which is a little dwarfer than *H. rakaiensis*, and grows to two feet and has similar foliage. The names *H. alpina* and *H. subalpina* have been given wrongly in the past to *H. rakaiensis* and have not been corrected everywhere as yet.

Grey-foliaged Hebes that are a little taller are *H. albicans* and *H. pimeloides* 'Glaucocaerulea' which has purple flowers.

Of the Hebes growing up to three feet tall, the narrow foliage group provide us with pink flowers, and possible cultivars to grow are *H. 'Dorothy Peach'* and *H. 'Miss Lowe'*. *H. 'Cranleighensis'* is more spreading, but flowers well. Another neat *Hebe* with methyl-violet flowers is *H. 'Warleyensis'*. *H. 'Mrs. Winder'* has dark, bronzy leaves, reddish-brown stems, violet flowers and tips to the shoots which turn pink in winter. *H. 'Bowles Hybrid'* is light and feathery, with narrow leaves and light mauve flowers. *H. darwiniana (glaucophylla)* 'Variegata' has lavender flowers and narrow leaves, some sickle shaped; a flower arranger's plant. *H. 'Spender's Seedling'* should not be forgotten with its longer spikes of white flowers, mid-green leaves and medium height, so too *H. 'Highdownensis'* with its royal blue flowers, and where the coloured foliage Callunas cannot be grown, *H. 'Tricolor'*, a low growing cultivar with green, cream and plum-coloured leaves and purple flowers. However this cultivar can only be regarded as being hardy in sheltered parts of the South and West in hard winters.

There are many more of these low-growing Hebes that could be mentioned as companion plants to heathers. Hebes are becoming popular and maybe you will want to grow some. Be warned, you can become addicted.

Have a Go with Cape Heaths

P.L. Joyner, Totton, Southampton

“I’d like to grow them but they aren’t hardy”. This is a comment so often made about the Cape heaths but then, how hardy are the Geraniums, Cinerarias, Cyclamen, Impatiens etc. so often grown during the winter months in glass-houses, porches and on window-sills? Certainly the plants are not as hardy as the Cape heaths, if past experiences are anything to go on; - 5°C has left Cape Heaths unscathed whilst Geraniums have succumbed.

If you can provide frost-free, light and airy conditions during the winter months and a standing area outside during the summer, then you can grow Cape heaths. Be careful with winter watering; but once they are outside water freely and feed lightly with a soluble fertiliser and then they will reward you from August through to April with their magnificent blooms.

Some of the taller Cape heaths may require staking, but pruning, usually during the late Spring, should keep most of them in check and allow them to fill out and produce several spikes during the subsequent flowering period. Potting on should be performed prior to standing out, at about the end of May, and the recommended sequence at annual intervals is three inch, four and a half inch, six inch, and possibly, nine inch. After four years the plants may become quite large and woody but with looking after should still bloom well.

The growing medium should be peat and one eighth grit, mixed between one to one and seven to three by volume, so experiment within this range. A soluble fertiliser, such as Phostrogen, should be added at the rate of four level teaspoons per gallon bucket of peat grit mixture. A commercial lime-free potting compost could

be used but it is convenient to mix up your own, to the above formula, as you require it.

Now we have come to the difficult bit, but those of you with "green fingers" may well have no trouble at this point. Propagating by cuttings is what I am referring to. Half-ripe wood, preferably laterals, should be taken from the parent plant, the most likely time for this would be early Spring, and they can be any size from half an inch upwards, perhaps shorter if you are good at it. Remove the lower one third of the leaves and insert into a one to one peat-grit mix with grit on the surface. Rooting hormone may or may not help - experiment. The container for the cuttings may conveniently be a margarine tub, a half pot or a seed tray. The cuttings should be spaced one half to one inch apart and then the whole container sprayed with water and put into a propagator, preferably with bottom heat. After that, the containers with their cuttings should be sprayed at intervals so that they remain damp but not "running". Rooting may take place anything from two months upwards, but once rooted they should be removed from the propagator, hardened off for at least two weeks and then potted into three inch pots. Trouble may occur at this point because of the tap root, and the lack of fine roots, not holding the growing medium. It may be helpful to replace them in the propagator after potting on until they are growing strongly. Shade from the sun at all times until the plants are obviously growing away well.

To describe many of the Cape heaths would require an awful lot more space, but two of my favourites are *Erica canaliculata* and *E. pageana*. *E. canaliculata* is a tree heath with a sparse foliage but during the winter months vanishes beneath a mass of small white blooms possibly turning pink in cold weather. It is reputed to be fairly hardy, but don't experiment unless you have "back up" plants. *E. pageana* is a dense-foliaged plant having yellow bells during the late winter and early spring. This is not a tree heath, but can grow to between one and one half and two feet; with pruning it will form a compact group of spikes. Other Cape heaths have flowers which

are tubular, straight or curved, with various shaped bells, or corolla lobes which open out at the ends to give "star like" blooms; the colours are numerous.

Well, why not have a go at growing Cape heaths? - why should South Africa have all the pleasure? As I am suggesting that you should grow Cape heaths, then I had better tell you where you can get them. David Small, a nurseryman member, of Ipswich (see list at the end of this Year Book) grows and supplies a wide range of Cape heaths as plants and rooted cuttings, providing plant descriptions and cultural hints. Cape heaths can be obtained as seed from certain seedsmen but usually as mixtures. Sow the seed as though they were half hardy annuals and when pricking out take the same amount of caution as earlier recommended for the potting on of rooted cuttings. At the time of writing (November) the hybrid Cape heaths, *i.e.* those grown for the Christmas pot plant trade, are available in some florists, as is one of the species *E. gracilis*, so florists could be a source of these beautiful plants over the winter period.

Now off you go and collect your Cape heaths and start enjoying them from next winter onwards, it will be well worth it.

"I bought twenty-four Cape heath plants from (Mr. and Mrs. Small's) Denbeigh Heather Nurseries after reading the articles and adverts in the Year Books and Bulletins, and because I thought that they would provide me with additional interest in the Heather family. Mrs. Small directed me to "Ericas in Southern Africa" by Baker and Oliver for more detailed information. I borrowed this from the University Library and I absolutely tingled with excitement and emotion as I turned the pages of this truly magnificent book. I will not rest contented until I have my own copy"

Part of a letter from Mr. Murphy of Swallows Barn, Lisburn, Northern Ireland to Mrs. C. I. MacLeod.

Book Reviews

van de Laar, Harry,
THE HEATHER GARDEN.

THE PLANTS AND THEIR CULTIVATION,
(Het Heidentuinboek)

Translated by P. Rowe-Dutton

Adapted and with a Foreword by David McClintock

London, Collins, 1978

160pp. 47 colour photographs, 21 line drawings, bibliography and index

ISBN 0 00-2197375

£4.25

The author of this very useful book is extremely knowledgeable about his subject and writes from a wealth of practical experience. Not only is he at the centre of the heather-growing industry in Holland, but he maintains the closest links with heather specialists in this country and on the Continent.

The book, which is deservedly popular in Holland and Germany, covers much the same ground as the books on heathers written by Terry Underhill and the Proudleys; it includes chapters on Soil, Design, Planting, Pruning and Propagation, and a section containing descriptions of the more commonly grown varieties of heather. But this new book is of particular value to English readers because it provides an opportunity of comparing Dutch and German practice and methods with those normally followed by British growers. Anyone who has seen how well the German and Dutch nurserymen grow their heathers will agree that their methods are well worth studying.

For example, on the Continent longer and more twiggy cuttings are normally taken than is usually the practice here; and it is claimed that this produces stronger and more sturdy plants more quickly. Differences will also be found in the soil mixtures commonly used.

Harry van de Laar describes a number of Continental cultivars, which are hardly known over here, and several new British varieties which have not yet

appeared in the English literature. There is also a list of new and rare cultivars which have not been included in the descriptive section.

There is a very useful new key to the identification of *Calluna* and the hardy species and hybrids of *Erica*. Unfortunately this leads the reader to believe that the anthers of *E. x williamsii* have appendages and those of *E. x praegeri* have not. In fact it is the other way round.

The translation is competent and mostly free from errors; and the text has been skilfully adapted by Mr. McClintock to suit English readers, without detracting from the author's own subjective approach to his material.

The colour photographs are mostly of a high quality and reproduce the difficult colours faithfully. The one exception is crimson; the illustrations do not do full justice to such cultivars as *Calluna* 'C.W.Nix', *E. carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby' and *E. cinerea* 'C.D.Eason'.

This is a book that can be confidently recommended to the heather enthusiast as good value for money and one that should appeal to both the beginner and the specialist.

P. G. T.

(A review, by David McClintock, of the original Dutch edition of this book was published in the Year Book for 1975. Ed.)

POCKET GUIDE TO HEATHER GARDENING

Geoffrey Yates

Fourth Edition, Ambleside, Tabramhill Gardens, 1978

36pp., 8 colour photographs and 6 line drawings. Contains a contribution from the Heather Society, the International Registration Authority.

£1.65 (including postage)

(Members may obtain this book and the Society's colour chart from D.B. Oliver, 27 Valentine Road, Leicester LE5 2GH. The prices are £1.50 and 50p respectively, to which 15p postage must be added).

The long awaited fourth edition of this booklet has now been published and, as expected, is considerably larger than its predecessors. In seven pages it contains brief notes on why, where and how to grow heathers, designing a heather garden, propagation, a heather blooming calendar and the use of Perlite. However, the main task that the author has set himself is the ambitious one of producing a descriptive list of all the cultivars in commercial cultivation in Europe of the genera for which the Heather Society, as International Registration Authority, is responsible, with the exception of Cape heaths. At a time when the list is increasing in length at a great rate, Geoffrey Yates has succeeded to an admirable degree.

The majority of the descriptions are based on personal observation, and those that are not are the result of thorough research. The descriptions are succinct, yet contain all the necessary information and, in many cases, brief biographical notes on the plants. Where possible, the results of the Heather Society's Harlow Car trials have been included and colours are described using the Society's colour chart. The author is also to be congratulated on taking note of results of recent taxonomic investigations, so that most cultivars are listed under their latest taxons.

It is good to see *Andromeda polifolia* and *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia* included in the lists, but it is perhaps unfortunate that the author has elected to omit *Erica manipuliflora* and *E. multiflora*. These European species are probably not fully hardy, but they are offered by some nurserymen and are grown in some of our gardens. Perhaps some mention should also have been made of *E. maderensis* and *E. (Pentapera) sicula* in these definitive lists.

The International Registration Authority's contribution is a separate, additional list of plants that are no longer, or not yet, available in commerce; of synonyms, errors, misprints and botanical epithets. This contribution adds greatly to the scientific value of the book. The two sections between them list all the known, relevant heather names.

This inexpensive book may be of value to the beginner in showing him the wide range of plants that are available to be grown, even if some of them may require a long hunt before specimens are obtained. However it may be recommended with confidence as an essential *vade-mecum* for the heather enthusiast.

A. W. J.

“It is the amateurs who contribute so much to our knowledge of plants. It is my belief they could contribute much moreAll that is needed is a good pair of eyes aided by a hand lens, a note book and pencil, the will to explore and a little encouragement

Our knowledge of such simple and fascinating topics as pollination of plants in our gardens is less than elementary. What do we know about the biology of seeds, or about the life span of plants, or the opening and closing of flowers, the dispersal of seeds ...‘heed not the book, but go to the plants themselves’. Even the most ordinary of plants can give pleasure and excite wonder”.

A. E. Esher, Bulletin of the Wellington (N.Z.) Bot. Soc., (August) 1978, pp. 3-5.

Calluna ‘Darleyensis’ and Erica Scoparia ‘Minima’, please

The International Registration Authority

The International Registration Authority has had two sets of heather names to clarify.

1. (a). *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Darleyensis’
(NOT ‘Brachysepala Densa’)

This curly-headed tussocky plant derives its name from its proximate source, the Darley Dale Nursery, where it was received about 1926 from Scotland as the quite different ‘Tenuis’.

In 1937 Dr. W. Beijerinck published his botanical subform *densa* of J. Jansen's form *brachysepala*. (*Brachysepala* was described as having the sepals as long as, or shorter than the corolla, as might be expected, the flowers small to very small; and *densa* as "of low squat habit, part of the flowers deformed"). He specifically stated that this subform had been found only once in Holland, but was known as a garden form under the name of 'Darleyensis'. Here is the clear distinction between the botanical classification for a form, or subform, which may crop up from time to time, not always identically, but covering a group of at least similar plants, and the horticultural designation for just one example of this form, an identical clone propagated vegetatively, in this case 'Darleyensis'.

Some ten years ago however it began to be called, probably in Holland, 'Brachysepala Densa'. This was doubly illegitimate. For one thing, the cultivar already had a good and valid name; for another no cultivar name given after 1959 can be in Latin form. 'Darleyensis' itself is exempt from this prohibition, having been given over fifty years ago.

There is, admittedly, the slight drawback that the name is also used for two *Ericas*. Indeed, Mr. Eric Smith of Darley Dale protested to Mr. F.J. Chapple that "the reclassification" (of their hybrid, from *E. hybrida darleyensis*, *E. mediterranea darleyensis*, *E. mediterranea hybrida* etc.) was ambiguous for this very reason. But any ambiguity was of Smith's own making. *E. x darleyensis* was published by Bean in 1914; Smith's *Calluna* 'Darleyensis' came out in 1926 and the *E. tetralix* 'Darleyensis' in 1936. Nowadays no name would be accepted by the Authority which duplicated that of any other heather, even in another genus. But that is no reason to upset established usage: there is no chance of confusion between these three heathers, while the repetition of their name usefully identifies their source.

There is no doubt that 'Darleyensis' must prevail for this *Calluna* and "Brachysepala Densa" be used solely in the botanical rank it represents, as f. *brachysepala*, subf. *densa*.

1 (b). *C. vulgaris* 'Penhale'

I do not remember seeing this plant, and certainly have no herbarium specimen. But from some accounts its flowers and habit have much in common with 'Darleyensis', although it is clearly of different origin - Cornish indeed.

(I have now seen a specimen at Kew from W. Beijerinck dated 1935. From this it seems that *c. v.* 'Penhale' may not be a representative of *f. brachysepala*, subf. *densa*.)

1 (c). *C. vulgaris* 'Pentlandii'

This is a puzzle. The name is quite recent and seems to have originated in the Low Countries. Mr. Van de Laar says the plant looks like both 'Darleyensis' and 'Penhale'; and it was he, I think, who ingeniously surmised that the name was a corruption of 'Penhale'. In default of further evidence, I think this may well be right and should be accepted.

2. *E. scoparia* 'Minima' (NOT 'Nana', 'Pumila', 'Minor' or 'Compacta').

The following five names almost certainly all refer to the same cultivar

(a). 'Minima'. Used by Miller & Sweet of Bristol in 1808, at Woburn in 1825 and by various nurseries and authors down to Rehder's still current "Manual", (who gives 'Pumila' as a synonym), and Yates 1978, while others also recognise 'Minima' in synonymy, unaware, no doubt, of its priority. There is a small specimen of this at Kew from the Tooting Nursery dated 1849.

(b). 'Nana'. Hosea, and Joshua, Waterer 1851, A. Henderson, Edgware Road, circa 1852, Dippel 1889 and in "The Low Road" 1927, "The Hardy Heaths" 1928 ('Pumila' or 'Nana'), Krussman 1960 and "The English Heather Garden" 1966.

(c). 'Pumila'. Knight & Perry 1851 then, apparently, a gap until "The Hardy Heaths" 1928 (see under 'Nana'), Letts' "Hardy Heaths and the Heather Garden" 1966 also with 'Nana' as synonym, also Yates "Pocket Guide to Heather Gardening" 1970, '71 and '73. Finally the 1973 Bean, Vol.2, p.109, adding "this or a similar clone

was in cultivation at Woburn in 1825 as 'Minima'. Hillier's "Manual" gives both 'Nana' and 'Minima' as synonyms. Krüssman 1976 changes to 'Pumila' with 'Nana' as synonym.

(d). 'Minor'. Arends 1906 onwards.

(e). 'Compacta'. Used by V. Proudley in our Year Book for 1965, and then in "Heathers in Colour" with B. Proudley in 1974, where it is equated with " 'Minima', 'Nana' etc. ".

The first four names are equally legitimate. The last certainly is not, being a Latin form post-1960 (or was it published earlier?). Furthermore it is the tail-ender in priority. The only suggestion that any of these are not synonyms lies in Rollinson's catalogues for at least 1875-7, where both 'Minima' and 'Nana' are listed, but neither with any description. I can see no reason why the oldest name, 'Minima', should not have the pre-eminence it is entitled to and be used as the correct name.

So, in the absence of cogent facts of which I am unaware (and I have consulted widely), may only 'Darleyensis' and 'Minima' be used for these two cultivars. Both proposals have been agreed with the Dutch.

(The Society's Registrar is David McClintock. Ed.)

The Control of Phytophthora and Rhizoctonia

D.J. Small, Ipswich, Suffolk

Amateurs and professionals alike, face the risk of *P. cinnamomi* and the allied fungus *Rhizoctonia*, particularly whenever soil is imported into the garden or nursery.

The symptoms of attack by *P. cinnamomi* were described by Dr. Pauline Smith in the Year Book for

1978. It is sufficient to mention here, that the symptoms of attack by *Rhizoctonia* are identical to those of *P. cinnamomi* but its mode of attack is patchy, whereas *P. cinnamomi* tends to spread from one point.

There are however, precautions that can be taken, which minimise the risk of infestation. Some are drastic, but the more precautions one can take, the less the chance of fungal attack.

For the amateur, the most likely way for the fungus to arrive, is with the purchase of plants. Whenever possible, study the plants before purchase, for symptoms of the fungus. Place newly purchased plants in "quarantine" for six months, i.e. keep them in their containers. Make sure that any soil water is trapped and not allowed to come into contact with the garden soil. After this time, the risk is slight, and if the plants show no symptoms, they can be planted out.

For the propagator, whether amateur or professional, great care must be taken over hygiene.

1. Always use sterilised rooting mediums, making sure that they never come into contact with potentially infected garden soil. Place a new, clean polythene sheet on the propagating bench before starting work.
2. Always use new, or sterilised, seed trays.
3. Before collecting the cutting material, wash your hands in disinfectant.
4. When collecting cuttings, avoid any that may have been splashed with soil. **ON NO OCCASION SHOULD YOUR FINGERS OR CUTTING TOOLS TOUCH THE SOIL OR THE LOWER PART OF THE PLANT.** Place the material in new polythene bags.
5. Choose only vigorous looking plants to collect cuttings from.
6. When all the required cuttings from one cultivar have been taken, wrap the waste in the polythene table-cloth and then preferably burn it.
7. Watering of the cuttings should always be done with clean water. Tap water, however hard, is perfectly adequate, unless mist propagation is being practised.

8. Make sure the surface on which the seed trays rest, is also sterilised. Hygiene has to be continued into potting on and growing on -
9. Always use sterilised potting-on mediums. If loam and sand are used, very great care should be exercised to ensure that they are free from fungus **AND ITS SPORES**.
10. Always use new, or sterilised, pots.
11. Again lay down a polythene sheet before potting on commences, to minimise the risk of cross-contamination.
12. Make sure hands are washed after each seed tray is finished.
13. When laying out in the growing-on area, care should be taken to avoid cross-contamination on footwear. Laying-out beds should be narrow, so that all pots can be reached without having to tread on the gravel.
(Pots should be laid out on a surface which provides minimum contact with the pot and keeps it out of any build up of surface water. A five to ten centimetre (two to four inch) layer of gravel is thought to provide the best defence.
14. Water for irrigation must come from a source which cannot be contaminated by soil water. If done by hose, great care must be taken to ensure that water does not splash from infected soil into the pots.

Protectant fungicides are beginning to appear on the market, particularly for use by professional growers. Some are drenches, others are included in the potting compost. The effect of these is to control the disease and hence suppress the symptoms. The use of such chemicals is likely to cause considerable debate within the Society and I am sure that views expressed in the *Bulletin* would be read with interest.

Great play has been made of this fungal attack during the last few years. It is here to stay, at least until research gives us chemicals which are both safe to use and capable of completely destroying the fungus and its

spores. Until that time, by taking some, if not all, of the above precautions, we should be able to keep infestation at a low level.

Sharp eyes help to solve the mystery of *Erica* 'Stuartii'

Erica 'Stuartii' has been an enigma ever since its discovery in Connemara in 1890. It was first regarded as a sub-species of *E. tetralix* and in 1902 as a hybrid, with *E. mackaiana* as one of its parents. The practice of using the generic name followed directly by the cultivar name without a specific epithet underlined the uncertainty of the status of the plant.

In 1977 Rinus Zwijnenburg, the Dutch nurseryman, found a reversion on a plant of *E.* 'Stuartii'. This was passed to Harry van de Laar, who sent it to David McClintock. Professor D.A. Webb of Trinity College, Dublin, examined the mutant branch, which is now in the herbarium of the Heather Society. He stated that it passed every test for *E. x praegeri*, the hybrid between *E. tetralix* and *E. mackaiana*.

The epithet *x stuartii* was first published, at the specific level, by the Revd. E.F. Linton in 1902, thus pre-dating Ostenfeld's *E. x praegeri*, which appeared in 1912. The deletion of Article 71 of "The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature", which stated that no name could be based on a monstrosity - which 'Stuartii' had been deemed to be, means that *E. x stuartii* is now the correct binomial, both for the cultivar 'Stuartii', and for all the cultivars which were formerly listed under *E. x praegeri*.

David McClintock has written, in *Watsonia* Vol 12, No.3 (Feb.) 1979, a complete account of the history, status and nomenclature of *E.* 'Stuartii' as affected by the

finding of the important mutant branch in August 1977. Professor Webb's photograph of the reverting shoot is published, for the first time, elsewhere in this Year Book. We wish to thank him for his kind permission to use it.

A. W. J.

The Tree Heaths 'Gold Tips' and 'Pink Joy'

Maj.-Gen. P.G. Turpin, West Clandon, Surrey

Over eighty years ago there appeared in the nursery of Robert Veitch & Sons at Exeter, a chance seedling which turned out to be a hybrid of the tree heaths *Erica arborea* and *E. lusitanica*. This was propagated and several plants were sent to Kew around 1900, where they flourished. By 1905 one of them had reached a height of two to two and a half feet, with a spread of about the same measurements. Robert Veitch & Sons exhibited the plant at two R.H.S. shows in the spring of 1905, at the second of which, on the 14th of March, it received an Award of Merit. It was much admired for its floriferousness and the length of its flowering period - from February to May. It was described and named by W.J. Bean in 1905, and in 1969 our President gave it the clonal name 'Exeter'.

It is remarkable that there has been no record of a similar cross between these two species, which must have been growing together in many gardens and nurseries, as well as in the wild in south-west Europe. Although their flowering periods are not the same, nevertheless there is sufficient overlap to make cross-pollination by insects a likely occurrence. Hybrid seedlings, of course, might easily have been overlooked. I cannot find any record of an attempt to make a deliberate cross.

The clone 'Gold Tips', which was raised and introduced by Maxwell & Beale in about 1948, as a cultivar of *E. arborea*, has always puzzled me, and others, because its flowers resemble those of *E.*

lusitanica and *E. x veitchii* more than those of *E. arborea*. Recently I have made a very careful comparison of these four plants and I am convinced that 'Gold Tips' is, in fact, a hybrid with the same parents as *E. x veitchii* 'Exeter'. It is possible that *E. arborea* 'Alpina' was one of the parents of 'Gold Tips', but this could hardly have been so in the case of *E. x veitchii* 'Exeter', as the cultivar 'Alpina' was only introduced into England in 1899.

I have tried to find out how 'Gold Tips' originated in Maxwell & Bealé's nursery, but without success. No clue is given as to whether it was a sport or seedling, either in Maxwell & Beale's catalogue or in "The English Heather Garden" by D. Fyfe Maxwell and P.S. Patrick. The presumption is that it was a seedling.

The young stems of 'Gold Tips' are covered with hairs which are partly simple and partly branched, like those of *E. x veitchii*. The best time to examine the hairs (a 10 or 15 x lens is required) is mid-June when the young shoots are about three inches long. The hairs show up well against the reddish-brown colour of the stems. The leaves are much the same colour as those of *E. lusitanica*, but their habit is that of *E. arborea*; they grow out stiffly from the stem, instead of giving the plumose effect of *E. lusitanica*. The bracteoles on the pedicels and the base of the calyx resemble those of *E. arborea*. The flowers are cylindrical like those of *E. lusitanica*, but are slightly smaller and the anthers reach almost to the lobes of the corollas, which are not so recurved as the lobes of *E. lusitanica*. The young buds are frequently pink but this colour disappears as soon as the corolla develops. The style and the stigma, which are exserted, and the shape of the ovary resemble those of 'Exeter', and are intermediate between *E. arborea* and *E. lusitanica*; so are the anthers and their appendages, which are similar to those of *E. lusitanica*, but smaller and pale pink, instead of brown. The time of flowering is later than *E. lusitanica* but earlier than *E. arborea*.

In all respects the similarity between 'Gold Tips' and 'Exeter' is striking, although the former tends to

grow taller and more upright. The conclusion appears to be unanswerable, that this is another hybrid with *E. arborea* and *E. lusitanica* as its parents. Its name should be *E. x veitchii* 'Gold Tips'.

It has been suggested that *E. x veitchii* sets seed and is fertile. This was the opinion of the late J. W. Porter, but no-one appears to have put this to the test. If this were so, 'Gold Tips' could have been a seedling of *E. x veitchii* 'Exeter'.

The tree heath 'Pink Joy' appeared among a batch of seedlings in the nursery of P. G. Zwijnenburg of Boskoop in Holland. It was first distributed in 1969 and described in "Ericultura" (No. 5, 1972, p. 7), the Bulletin of the Dutch Heather Society. The seed had been collected from *E. arborea* and it was assumed that 'Pink Joy' was a new variety of that species. I have since verified that plants of *E. lusitanica* were growing nearby. Careful examination of authentic plants of 'Pink Joy' has shown that they have all the characteristics of *E. x veitchii* and it appears almost certain that this is another hybrid, with the same parentage, which should be named *E. x veitchii* 'Pink Joy'.

Below is a comparative table showing the characteristics of *E. arborea*, *E. x veitchii* and *E. lusitanica*. Both 'Gold Tips' and 'Pink Joy' closely conform to those of *E. x veitchii* and should be shown as cultivars of the hybrid.

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COMPARATIVE TABLE

	<i>E. arborea</i>	<i>E. x veitchii</i>	<i>E. lusitanica</i>
1. Stems	Branched hairs	Some branched some simple hairs	Simple hairs
2. Leaves	Stiff. 45° angle to stem	Intermediate. 45° angle to stem	Soft and narrow. Small angle to stem
3. Inflorescence	Long spreading panicles, up to 18 in. long	Open spreading panicles, pyramidal	Upright panicles
4. Flowers	In clusters of 3 to 10	In clusters of 3 to 6	In clusters of 3 (but sometimes more)
5. Pedicels	Bracteoles at or near base, (1.2mm)	Bracteoles mid- way along pedicel, (1.2mm)	Bracteoles mostly less than mid-way along pedicel (0.8mm)
6. Calyx	Saccate. Lobes ovate	Saccate. Lobes triangular	Not saccate. Lobes triangular
7. Corolla	White, glob- ular bell- shaped. 3 mm long. 2 mm wide	Cylindrical, white 4.5mm long. 2 mm wide	Cylindrical, white flushed pink. 5mm long. 2.5mm wide

8. Stamens	Anthers visible in intersections of corolla lobes. Appendages small, white. 0.25mm	Anthers semi-exserted. Appendages pectinate, white to pink. 0.5mm	Anthers included. Appendages pectinate, pronounced, brown. 0.5mm
9. Stigma	Style stout, capitate, with 4 bosses on tip. Greenish white exserted	Style stout, capitate, exserted. Tip with 4 bosses, white to pink	Style slender, exserted. Tip concave (obconical) with pink or reddish lip
10. Ovary	Bowl-shaped, green flushed purple. 1 to 1.5mm long 1mm wide	Semi-ovoid, green with pink flush 1.5mm long. 1mm wide	Ovoid, green flushed reddish brown. 2mm long. 1mm wide
11. Time of flowering	March to May	January to May	November to May

(Since the above article was written, David McClintock has come across the following note, written by the Spanish botanist D. Maximo Laguna in "Flora Forestal Espanola", 1890, Vol 11, p. 73:- (I translate)

".....in the mountains of Irisari (near San Sebastian) we have collected specimens intermediate in their characteristics between *E. arborea* and *E. lusitanica*."

P. G. T.)

The Classification of Hardy Winter-flowering Heaths with notes on *Erica X darleyensis*

A. W. Jones, West Camel, Somerset

Uncertainty has existed, even among knowledgeable plantmen, as to whether certain cultivars should be placed in *E. carnea* or *E. x darleyensis*. I propose to cite some examples and then discuss the diagnostic tests which may be used to distinguish between *E. carnea*, *E. erigena* and *E. x darleyensis*. One

of these techniques is the examination of pollen grains. This technique has also provided some information on the sterility of the hybrid and this is discussed in the latter part of this article.

It was in 1914 that Bean (1) published the name *E. x darleyensis*. He stated that the plant had "characteristics intermediate between those of *E. carnea* and *E. mediterranea (erigena)*". He went on to say - "In the characters of its leaves, young wood, and flowers it is identical with those two species, which themselves scarcely differ,it eventually forms dense masses 2 ft. high - at least twice as high as *carnea*, yet never showing any disposition to grow erect and form a single stem like *mediterranea*A valuable character of *E. x darleyensis* is its habit of commencing to flower as early as November - at least a month before *E. carnea* - and continuing until May." To my knowledge, Bean's opinion on the parentage of the hybrid has never been disputed, and is supported by the results of experiments carried out by Mrs. Parris (2,3,4). The description in later editions of Bean is identical but requires modification in some details in the light of later introductions. Mature plants of *E. x darleyensis* can reach more than three feet in height, and plants of *E. carnea* have been collected in the wild with stems 21 inches long (5). Most cultivars of *E. x darleyensis* that we know today bloom from January to May, while a number of cultivars of *E. carnea* begin to bloom in November or earlier, a few even showing the extended blooming period of *E. x darleyensis*. (In many places *E. erigena* 'Irish Dusk' and 'Irish Salmon' bloom from November to May, but it would be difficult to mistake these plants for cultivars of *E. x darleyensis*.)

All the cultivars of *E. x darleyensis* arose as chance seedlings in cultivation, since nowhere do the parents grow together in the wild. Possibly due to its horticultural origin, *E. x darleyensis* seems to have received less attention from botanists than for example, *E. x watsonii*, *E. x williamsii* and *E. x stuartii (praegeri)*, which all occur in the wild.

The first example of uncertainty is provided by

Maxwell and Patrick (6), who suspected that perhaps the *E. carnea* cultivars 'Aurea' and 'Eileen Porter' should be regarded as cultivars of hybrid origin. They also mention an opinion that they did not share, that *E. erigena* 'W. T. Rackliff' is a hybrid.

Another cultivar about which there has been a question is 'White Glow'. Here I will quote from a letter to me, dated Dec. 10th 1977, from the finder, Jack Drake of Inshriach Nursery. "I found it in the garden here as a strong sport of *E. carnea* 'Ruby Glow' and propagated it. The cuttings developed into plants, which looked almost identical to *E. carnea* (or *darleyensis*?) 'Silberschmelze' The plant that we raised, however, was a larger and stronger grower than its host 'Ruby Glow' and seemed to have *darleyensis* blood in it. This makes one wonder if the parent plant also had *darleyensis* blood, although appearing to be a true *carnea*." As explained later in this article, 'White Glow' is a cultivar of *E. x darleyensis*, but two questions remain. In a note to David McClintock, dated May 15th 1967, Jack Drake confirmed his certainty that it was a sport, and not a seedling growing through the *carnea*. Furthermore, the winters in the Spey Valley are frequently sufficiently severe to preclude the growing of *E. erigena*, so whence the other parent?

A further example is provided by the cultivar 'Pink Spangles'. This was found in 1961 by Neil Treseder in a garden in Devoran, Cornwall. The seedling was growing at the foot of an *E. erigena*. (Later Mrs. Parris used *E. erigena* as the female parent in her experiments.) At two years old 'Pink Spangles' showed twice as much growth as plants of *E. carnea* of the same age. On that evidence it was sent to the Wisley trial as a hybrid in 1965 and in 1966 it was introduced by Treseders. At Wisley it was considered to be an *E. carnea* and received its Award of Merit under that name.

It is possible that plants showing exceptional vigour, longer racemes or larger flowers than normal, such as *E. carnea* 'Pink Spangles' (or *E. erigena* 'Brian Proudley'), may have extra chromosomes (North, 7). The chromosome numbers of one hybrid and eight species of European *Erica* have been determined, but none of them

on more than four occasions. All have proved so far to be diploids with $2n=24$. However, no work has been published on their detailed cytology on the individual cultivars, so this must, for the present, remain speculation.

The first method of distinguishing between *E. carnea*, *E. erigena* and *E. x darleyensis* is provided by Bean's description of the hybrid. In general, mature plants with heights intermediate between *E. carnea* and *E. erigena* will be hybrids. However this is not an unambiguous diagnosis of hybrid origin. The results of the Harlow Car trials (8) show that *E. carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby' was as tall as *E. x darleyensis* 'J.W. Porter' and taller than *E. x darleyensis* 'Margaret Porter'. It is thus possible to be uncertain about tall growing *E. carnea* cultivars and low growing cultivars of *E. x darleyensis*, if height is used as the sole diagnostic characteristic. Furthermore, height is of little value for identifying the correct classification of young plants.

Ross (9) has described two further points of morphological difference between *E. carnea* and *E. erigena*, but he did not mention *E. x darleyensis*. The first of these is that in mature flowers of *E. carnea* the anthers are fully exerted, with their bases level with, or above, the tips of the corolla lobes. In *E. erigena* the anthers are semi-exserted, with their bases only reaching the sinuses between the corolla lobes. I have noticed that *E. x darleyensis* and *E. carnea* 'Pink Spangles' also have semi exerted anthers, thus negating the diagnostic value of this critical characteristic. His second point of difference concerns the length and prominence of infra-foliar ridges in the two species, which he illustrates. In *E. carnea* these are half as wide as the leaf scar and extend as far as the next whorl of leaves, while in *E. erigena* they are much shorter and less prominent. My own observations on fresh material suggests that *E. x darleyensis* resembles *E. carnea* in this matter, but the infra-foliar ridges cannot always be detected on *E. erigena* stems. Most others have been unable to distinguish between *E. erigena* and *E. carnea* on the basis of infra-foliar ridges, and the value of this "test" must be regarded as doubtful.

Yet another characteristic of hardy hybrids (but not of the tree heaths), which has been noted by Maxwell (10) and others, is the presence of coloured foliage. This is most noticeable on the new growth in spring, but it persists on the mature foliage throughout the year to some degree. There are a very few non-hybrid cultivars that also have discoloured foliage. It is safe to say that if a plant does not have coloured foliage it is not a hybrid, but if it does there is a slight chance that it is not e.g. *E. carnea* 'Lesley Sparkes' and 'Wanda'.

Webb (11) gives the examination of pollen as a method of distinguishing between *E. tetralix* and *E. x stuartii* (*praegeri*). I therefore examined the pollen of a number of unambiguous cultivars of *E. carnea*, *E. erigena* and *E. x darleyensis* in an attempt to find reproduceable differences. I did this by expressing the pollen from the anthers on to microscope slides and examining them, using a simple optical microscope at a magnification X 400. The pollen from *E. carnea* appeared roughly triangular in shape, and was approximately 25 micron (1 micron = 10^{-6} metres) across. That of *E. erigena* gave an outline which was slightly less angular and was approximately 20 micron in diameter. The pollen from *E. x darleyensis* appeared roughly spherical and was about half the size of that from *E. carnea*. These observations have been repeated by Mrs. Parris. The size estimates for *E. carnea* and *E. erigena* are in reasonable agreement with the measurements given by Oldfield (12) and the shape of the *E. carnea* pollen agrees with a micrograph in Oldfield's paper. Oldfield's work was directed towards the identification of fossilised pollen, and did not consider *E. x darleyensis*.

On the basis of the observations which had been made, the technique seemed to provide a method of distinguishing between *E. carnea*, *E. erigena* and *E. x darleyensis*, and I therefore examined the doubtful and debated cultivars. These yielded the results that 'Aurea', 'Lesley Sparkes', 'Pink Spangles' and 'Wanda' were cultivars of *E. carnea*, 'Ada S. Collings' and 'White

Glow' were *E. x darleyensis* and 'W.T. Rackliff' was an *E. erigena*. The results for all cultivars that have so far been examined are given in an appendix at the end of this article.

Micrographs of the pollen of seventeen species and one hybrid of European *Erica* at magnifications up to X30,000 have been produced by Visset (13,14) using the scanning electron microscope. As with Oldfield, Visset's work was done for palaeo-botanic reasons, and *E. x darleyensis* was omitted. Dr. I.K. Ferguson of Kew, kindly made for me scanning electron micrographs of pollen from specimens of *E. carnea* 'Vivellii', *E. erigena* 'Superba' and *E. x darleyensis* 'Darley Dale' which I supplied. Some of these micrographs appear, with his kind permission, elsewhere in this Year Book. The micrographs of the pollen from the two species are very similar to those published by Visset. They appear to suggest that *E. erigena* should appear more angular than *E. carnea* under the optical microscope, but it must be remembered that in the latter instrument, under transmitted light, only a silhouette is seen. If only the outlines of the micrographs are considered, it will be seen that there is no inconsistency.

The micrographs of *E. x darleyensis* pollen show it to be very collapsed in comparison with its parents, and it seems likely that the grains have no contents. Miss M. Jones of the British Museum (N.H.) kindly carried out differential staining test for me on *E. x darleyensis* pollen, and indeed found that the grains which were examined contained no cytoplasm (15). Both the collapsed appearance of the pollen grains and the absence of cytoplasm indicate that *E. x darleyensis* is normally almost totally male sterile.

I know of no work on the ovary of *E. x darleyensis* but I have traced these records of seed being produced by this hybrid. The first of these is Porter's account of the cultivar 'Carryduff' (16). This cultivar is thought to have been lost, but I would be most interested to hear from anyone who has an authentic example. McClintock (17) reported the collection, by Mr. R. Measham of Exmouth, of seed from a seedling authenticated by Wisley as *E. x*

darleyensis, and Underhill (18) has reported the collection of seed by an un-identified research worker at Boskoop, but does not give the name(s) of the plant(s) from which the seed was obtained.

Both Mrs. Parris and I have tried, without success, to fertilise *E. x darleyensis* with pollen from both its parents. This cannot be regarded as evidence that the hybrid is female sterile, as cross pollination of the parents themselves by insects must occur quite frequently in gardens and nurseries without viable seed being produced, or if it is, without the progeny being recognised.

It seems that *E. x darleyensis* is probably male sterile and possibly female fertile, and furthermore, that in cases of doubt it may be distinguished from its parents by the discoloured leaves and in detail by a simple optical microscopic test.

Finally I should like to thank all those who have helped and encouraged me in this work. Most have been mentioned in the text, but I must especially thank David McClintock for his invaluable help and advice, both in the work and in preparing this article for publication

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION OF POLLEN GRAINS

E. carnea - 'Adrienne Duncan', 'Alan Coates', 'Ann Sparkes', 'Aurea', 'Foxhollow Fairy', 'Gracilis*', 'Jennifer Anne', 'King George'**, 'Lesley Sparkes', 'Myretoun Ruby'**, 'Pink Pearl', 'Pink Spangles', 'Praecox Rubra', 'Ruby Glow', 'Snow Queen', 'Springwood White', 'Vivellii', 'Wanda', 'Winter Beauty'**

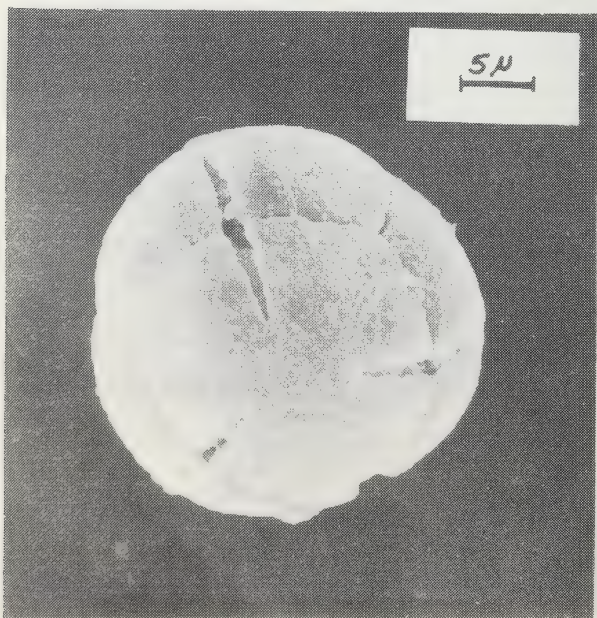
E. x darleyensis- 'Ada S. Collings', 'Arthur Johnson', 'Darley Dale'**, 'Ghost Hills', 'Jack H. Brummage', 'J.W. Porter'**, Mrs. Parris's Hybrid A, Mrs. Parris's Hybrid C, 'Silberschmelze'**, 'White Glow'



MR. C. D. BRICKELL V.M.H.
The President of the Heather Society



Erica 'Stuartii' showing reversion to typical *E. x praegeri*.
Photo by Professor D.A. Webb.



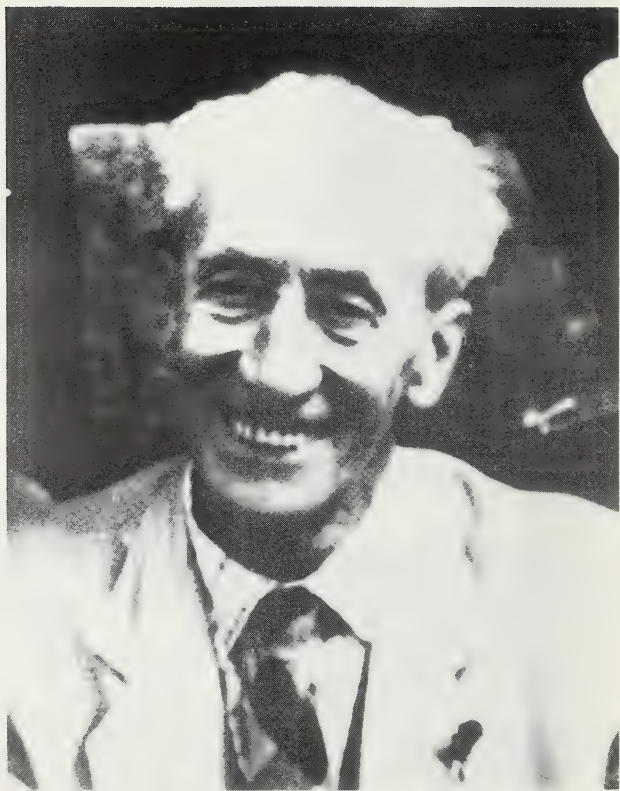
Erica carnea pollen grain



Erica erigena pollen grain



Erica x darleyensis pollen grain



JOHN ARDRON

E. erigena - 'Brian Proudley', 'Irish Dusk', 'Irish Salmon'**,
'Superba', 'W.T. Rackliff'**

* Examined by Mrs. A.A. Parris.

** Examined by Mrs. Parris and the author independently.

('Eileen Porter' did not yield any pollen, an observation that was again confirmed by Mrs. Parris, but it is considered to be a cultivar of *E. carnea* on the grounds of the absence of discoloured foliage and fully exerted, but aborted, anthers.)

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NEW ACQUISITIONS

J. Platt, Ulnes Walton, Nr. Leyland, Lancashire

(Mr. Platt continues to add to his collection of cultivars. Below are described the plants he has obtained in 1978. Some of these have been available, but not widely, for a few years, some are quite new, one very important one being described for the first time here. The sources of earlier published descriptions, where known, are given in parentheses - for example (P.G.12) - *Pocket Guide to Heather Gardening*, 1978 Edn. p. 12. It must be remembered that as these plants are quite new, we do not have an accurate idea of their ultimate size and the heights that are given are estimates. Ed.)

Calluna vulgaris

'Chindit' Aug.- Sept.

25cm. Pale lilac-mauve flowers. Low growth with twisted stems and grey-green foliage. Introduced by Williams Parsons by 1977. (P.G.12)

'Dunnet Lime' Aug.- Sept.

25cm. Lilac pink flowers. Foliage yellow-green in summer, with orange tips in winter. Found by David McClintock near Dunnet Head, Caithness, in 1972. (P.G.12).

'Dunwood' Sept.- Dec.

30cm. Flowers remain in bud and appear crimson. Foliage dark green. A very attractive plant. Introduced by 1977 by Mr. and Mrs. Warner.

- 'Glen Mashie' Aug.- Sept.
20cm. White flowers freely borne. Spreading growth. A nice plant. Known by 1973. (P.G.13)
- 'Grey Carpet' Aug.- Sept.
15cm. Mauve flowers. A slow growing plant with a spreading habit and grey downy foliage. Seedling in David McClintock's garden in 1969, named by Will Ingwersen (P.G.14)
- 'Grizzly' Sept.- Oct.
70cm. Lilac-pink flowers. Upright growth with grey foliage. A vigorous plant introduced in 1966. (P.G.14)
- 'Hamlet Green' Aug.- Sept.
30cm. Flowers mauve. A most unusual cultivar, different from any other. Foliage is yellowish grey-green in summer, changing to orange yellow-green in winter. Found by Albert Turner in 1972.
- 'Ide's Double' Aug.- Oct.
Flowers double, heliotrope. Open habit with green foliage. A seedling among 'Ruth Sparkes'. Introduced by R.A. Ide. This plant is said to be very similar to 'Tib'.
- 'Olive Turner' Sept.
40cm. Mauve flowers, very sparse, if at all. A nice foliage plant with cream tips in spring, which keeps its colour well into summer at Ulnes Walton. Introduced by 1975. (P.G.16 and Year Book, 1976, p.56)
- 'Orange Max' July - Aug.
20cm. Light purple flowers. Foliage bronze-yellow in summer, turning bronze-red in winter. Open spreading habit. Seedling in J. Dekker's garden, introduced in 1975. (P.G.16)
- 'Parsons Gold' Aug.- Sept.
25cm. Pink flowers. Compact, slender habit, foliage gold tinted bronze which darkens in winter. Introduced by William Parsons pre 1977. (P.G.16).
- 'Parsons Grey Selected' Aug.- Sept.
35cm. Mauve flowers. Loose habit with twisted stems and pale grey foliage. Introduced by William Parsons pre 1977. (P.G.16)
- 'Parsons Spectrum' Sept.- Oct.
45cm. Pale lavender-mauve flowers. Spring foliage in shades of orange, pink and cream carried in an upright habit. Introduced in 1973. Seedling with William Parsons. (P.G.16)
- 'Schurig's Sensation' Aug.- Oct.
50cm. Double flowers of dark rose pink, which appear deeper than those of 'Peter Sparkes'. A sport on 'H.E. Beale' found by K-H. Schurig of Barmstedt in 1967. Introduced in 1973. (Year Book, 1977, p.32 and P.G.17)

'Springbank' Aug.- Sept.

25cm. Mauve flowers. Spring foliage tipped red. Very compact growth. By 1975 (P.G.18)

'White Lawn' Aug.- Sept.

Habit completely prostrate. White flowers on long spikes. At three years the spread is 30cm. This plant is a real gem and should be in every heather garden. (P.G.18)

Erica carnea

'Altadena' Feb.- April

15cm. Pale cerise flowers. Yellow foliage which is tipped pink and bronze at various times of the year. Slightly redder in winter than 'Foxhollow'. Seedling found by Alan Taylor *circa* 1973.

'John Kampa' Feb.- April

15cm. Flowers dark rose pink. Spreading open habit. Found by Mr. Kampa and introduced in 1974. (P.G.20)

Erica cinerea

'Bucklebury Red' July - Sept.

15cm. Scarlet-crimson flowers. Tall upright growth with dark green foliage. Introduced by 1977 by William Parsons. (P.G.22)

'Mrs. E.A. Mitchell' July - Aug.

25cm. Magenta flowers. Low open growth with dark green foliage. (P.G.24) Introduced by G.H. Mitchell 1965.

Erica erigena

'Brian Proudley' Nov.- April

120cm. White flowers, yellow in bud, very freely borne in 30cm. long racemes. A very vigorous shrub with an erect open habit. This was collected by John Letts and Mrs. Proudley from the late J.W. Porter's garden in 1968. It is named, with Brian Proudley's permission, on account of the exceptional length of the racemes, which make it quite distinct from 'Alba'. An outstanding plant.

Erica x darleyensis

'Dunreggan' (formerly 'Snowdrift') Nov.- April

45cm. Pure white flowers with light brown anthers. Upright compact growth. Lemon tips to spring foliage. A free flowerer, the young plants being in full bloom in November 1978. This plant originated as a sport from 'Silberschmelze'. Introduced by Oliver & Hunter and on sale 1978.

'White Perfection' Dec.- April

45cm. Creamy white flowers over dark green foliage. Upright open habit. Seedling *circa* 1972 with H. Knol of Gorssel, who named and introduced the plant. (P.G.26)

Erica arborea

'Albert's Gold' March - May

White flowers. Gold foliage throughout the year. Found as a sport on 'Alpina' in Albert Turner's garden in 1971. A very choice plant. (This plant was distributed as 'Alpine Gold' in 1977 and early 1978).

The Establishment of Rooted Cuttings of Erica and Calluna Cultivars

D. Edge, Ringwood, Hampshire

This article is based on my training and experience as a professional grower. It must be borne in mind that my prime aim is to produce plants of high quality within a reasonable period of time. My heathers are grown in 3½ inch plastic containers.

The main factors affecting the establishment of rooted cuttings are:

1. Time of potting-on.
2. Soil type.
3. Fertilizer and trace element availability.
4. Watering.
5. Climatic conditions and protection.
6. Pests and diseases.

1. Time of potting-on.

Although the time of potting-on is not critical, it partially depends on whether protection is available. Late autumn and winter-potted cuttings, which are not protected from frost, are likely to be lifted and will thus require constant attention to ensure that young roots remain covered with soil. However, I have found that cuttings rooted during July or September, and having a good root system, may be potted during October and November of the same year. These plants, given protection, establish an initial primary root system

throughout the autumn and winter and therefore have an advantage over spring-potted cuttings. The spring growth is produced earlier and to a greater extent.

2. Soil type.

Although heathers can be grown successfully in various types of compost of suitable pH, I believe that the compost should provide the plants with a good reserve of nutrients. This reserve is essential if the plants are to retain their attractiveness prior to purchase.

The compost selected should possess the following properties:

- a. pH between 5 and 6.
- b. Allow easy penetration by the roots of the young plants and yet give the plants adequate support.
- c. Retain sufficient moisture for the plants' needs.
- d. Allow sufficient drainage to remove excess water.
- e. Retain, for a sufficient period, the nutrients and trace elements required for healthy growth.
- f. Be easily available and simple to handle.

The potting compost I have found to give the best results is composed of three parts peat, two parts sand and one part soil, all by volume. To each cubic yard of this mixture I add two and a half pounds of Osmocote, six ounces of fritted trace elements and one ounce of Aeterra. These additions are discussed in more detail below.

3. Fertilizer requirements.

Osmocote is a relatively new plastic coated pelleted fertilizer. This ensures a slow release of nutrients and provides the plants with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for a period of up to twelve months. This removes the need for repeated liquid feeding.

Fritted trace elements are included in the compost to prevent any deficiency of them. Although heathers are not acutely sensitive to a deficiency of trace elements,

and the inclusion of loam in the compost will tend to provide a limited supply, I still find it best to add the frit.

4. Watering.

Water should ideally be slightly acid (pH of 7 or less). Application should be by a fine sprinkler and applied as necessary to keep the compost moist without water-logging. The most critical period is immediately following potting-on when the young roots are just covered by the soil surface and therefore liable to shrivel if drying out occurs.

5. Climatic conditions.

Generally speaking temperature control is unnecessary. Only protection from extremes of temperature is needed, but frost protection throughout the winter aids growth and establishment. It may be provided in the form of walk-in or low level polythene tunnels, frames or cloches, plastic netting or greenhouses.

6. Pests and diseases.

Heathers are not subject to any pest sufficiently generally to warrant its discussion in an article of this sort. The only serious disease, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, is very difficult to control and only recently have suitable chemicals become available to nurserymen. Symptoms are similar to those caused by drought. It is a fungus which kills the roots of the plant whose foliage first fades and eventually becomes brown.

As always prevention is better than cure and thus good hygiene is the primary factor in limiting the spread. Any dead plants should be immediately removed and unhealthy ones placed in a quarantine area. Pots, soil etc. should not be re-used unless sterilized. The addition of Aeterra to the potting compost provides protection against *Phytophthora* for approximately eight weeks but has no curative action.

Potting On

T. Clancy, Aylsham, Norfolk

Having either purchased your rooted cuttings, or rooted them yourself, you are faced with the problem of what medium to use when potting on, and what size pot.

The size of pot is no real problem. I have used three-inch rigid plastic pots and three-inch black polythene bags. The former are useful if the ensuing plant is to be planted out in a relatively short time, say three months. They do have two disadvantages; namely the plants soon become pot bound and they dry out very quickly. Thus they need to be watered regularly. To reduce the watering I made a bed of sharp sand on top of a sheet of black polythene and buried the pots to half their depth in the sand. Watering twice a week in the dry weather was ample, whereas before, the plants had had to be watered every day. The three-inch black polythene pots have the disadvantage of using twice as much of the potting medium. Drying out does not pose the same problem in this case. I believe that the loss of many young plants when potted on is due to shortage of water. Just one day without water and they die. On the other hand too much water is just as bad.

Next comes the choice of growing medium. I have tried several, all with varying rates of success. The first was Jiffy 7's. I thought that, as the mixture was peat-based and contained nutrients, the rooted cuttings could do nothing but succeed. I was wrong, and it proved to be an expensive lesson. Three hundred cuttings were potted on into Jiffy 7's and I lost one hundred and eighty five. Those which survived made reasonable plants, but the roots seemed to have difficulty in breaking out of the mesh containers. Once dry, these are very difficult to re-moisten. The medium obviously did not agree with certain plants, for example *Erica cinerea* 'Golden Drop'. All twenty rooted cuttings died, some slower than others; not one survived in this medium.

The second method was a 50/50 mixture of peat and sharp sand, supplemented with a liquid feed of Coltishall

Red Fertilizer. I thought that, as the cuttings had rooted in this very mix, to pot on into this mixture could do no harm, but of course a feed would be necessary. I chose this fertilizer because it was low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus and potassium. Two hundred cuttings were potted in this mixture. Thirty were lost, but some of these were weakly rooted in the first place. Healthy plants were obtained and none seemed to dislike the medium.

This year I had to change the mixture, as my original supply of sharp sand had run out and I was reluctant to use builders sharp sand. I chose a 50/50 mixture of peat and potting grit. The Coltishall Fertilizer was no longer manufactured, so I chose Phostrogen as the liquid feed with this mixture. The rooted cuttings seemed to do quite well, but the mixture appeared to be too coarse: care had to be taken when planting out as the root ball broke rather easily. Strong sturdy plants were obtained. Very few were lost, only thirty out of four hundred, but I cannot say that the final plants were as good as I had obtained last year.

Finally, I decided to try Arthur Bowers Ericaceous Mix, as David Small highly recommended this when I purchased some rooted cuttings. I decided to compare it with the mixture above. The growth of the cuttings was tremendous, and the root ball very good. Nothing I have used previously can compare with the rapid growth obtained with this mixture. Will the growth be too tender to withstand the frost and winds of winter? This is the question I have to ask myself and I am now waiting to see what happens.

In conclusion I can say that the Bowers Ericaceous Mix has given me the best results this year. Next year I will try the following mixtures as I am not convinced that the Bowers Mix by itself is a complete answer. It does appear to become waterlogged easily.

Mix A

50/25/25

Peat/Grit/Sharp sand
Liquid feed - Sangral
Chrysanthemum & Dahlia

Mix B	50/25/25	Peat/Grit/Sharp sand Liquid feed - Phostrogen
Mix C	75/25	Bowers Mix/Sharp sand
Mix D	75/25	Bowers Mix/Perlite

The addition of sharp sand to the Bowers Mix is to try to improve drainage. The use of Perlite in place of sharp sand is again a recommendation from David Small.

“Correct pruning must start at the rooted cutting stage.when potting or planting out in the spring the tips are nipped off to promote side shoots. As some of the more vigorous varieties such as ‘Springwood White’ or *mediterranea* ‘Superba’ will grow as much as 4 inches without side shoots, these are shortened to 2 inches or less so that side shoots are formed low down to form the basis of a neat bushy plant. For *Calluna, cinerea* and *vagans*, side shoots are required lower so the cuttings are nipped off to an even lower level.

During the first few months of growth the plants are examined and if bushy growth is not produced the longer side shoots are nipped shorter resulting in further side shoots and so a symmetrical bushy plant results.”

F.Hamer and G.P. Vickers, Pruning Heathers, *Year Book of the Heather Society*, 1973, Vol 2, No. 2, p.30.

Personal and Place Names used for Hardy Heathers

SECOND SUPPLEMENT

David McClintock, Platt, Kent

Lists were given in the Year Books for 1971-2 and 1976 of personal names used for hardy heathers, and in 1973-6 of place names. (A similar list for Cape Heaths has awaited comment for two years).

There was no clue to whom or to where some of these names referred: anyone who knew was asked to pass on the information. No-one ever has! This may well be because nobody, or practically nobody, knows; but I did discover one correction by chance from a member who didn't know I didn't know.

I most sincerely thank the dozens of people who have answered letters, but please see if we cannot get some of these unknowns clarified - they are those giving, in brackets, only the earliest traced place and date.

PERSONAL NAMES:

Leaf Agnew (*cinerea*). (Argyll, 1966).

Albert's Gold (*arborea*). Albert Turner of Birmingham, finder, 1971.

Almi (*Calluna*). Wife of W. Harten of Lutterloh, Germany, pre 1978.

Kirsty Anderson (*Calluna*). (Delaney & Lyle, 1973).

Assoi (*tetralix*). I.J. Asso del Rio, of Saragossa (1742-1814)

Eric Birse (*tetralix*). Finder's father, of Aberdeen, 1976.

Anja Blum (*cinerea*). Third daughter of H.J.M. Blum of Steenwijkerwold, 1976.

Marion Blum (*Calluna*). Eldest daughter of H.J.M. Blum, 1974.

Candollei (*erigena*). A.P. de Candolle of Geneva (1778-1841).

Catherine (*Calluna*). Daughter of raiser, C.T. Harding of Puddington, Cheshire, 1973.

Cinderella (*Daboecia cantabrica*). No special connection, pre 1970.

R.B. Cook (*carnea*). Horticulturalist, of Corbridge (1881-1973).

Richard Cooper (*Calluna*). (Listed by Pennyacres, 1977).

Corbett's Red (*Calluna*). (Darthuizer, 1977).

- Dallimorei* (syn. of *x darleyensis*). W. Dallimore of Kew (1871-1959).
- Dandy (*Calluna*). Mrs. Ruth Dandy of Eccleston, 1975.
- Nellie Dawson (*cinerea*). Wife (d.1976) of Stanley Dawson of Sandal, Yorks.
- Dickson's Blazes (*Calluna*). A retired colleague of R.J. Brien, by 1976. But "Dickson's Blazes" was also the bright light from the forge near Lanark, seen from the train pre-1914.
- Hermann Dijkhuizen (*cinerea*). Finder, in Spain 1972.
- Eric Eason (*Calluna*). "Mr. Bumby", helper of H. Mitchell, raiser, of Yorks, c. 1972.
- Forskalii* (syn. of *manipuliflora*). P. Forskål of Helsingfors (1732-63).
- Isobel Frye (*Calluna*). Wife of M.G. Frye, raiser, of Essex, 1975.
- B.M. Goffey (*Calluna*). (Hayes, pre ;1935).
- Gwenda (*Calluna*). Mrs. A. Richmond, then of Crowborough, pre 1976.
- Hardwick's Rose (*cinerea*). R.E. Hardwick of Newick, Sussex, by 1965.
- Ide's Double (*Calluna*). R.A. Ide of Camberley, Surrey, by 1976.
- Ilka (*Calluna*). Daughter of finder, B. Aalderink of Zelhem, Holland, by 1973.
- Isobel Hughes (*Calluna*). Seedling in Mrs. Hughes' garden at Bearsden, c. 1970.
- Jack's Favourite (*Calluna*). (In New Zealand long before 1977).
- Jan (*Calluna*). Mrs. Janet Longhurst of Crowborough, finder - and it flowers in Jan.
- John Ardron (*cinerea*). A Vice-president of the Heather Society (1896-1978)
- Ewan Jones (*erigena*). Eldest son (b.1970) of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Jones of West Camel, Somerset, 1973.
- Longfellow (*Calluna*). Name given by P.S. Patrick in reference to himself - he was tall, C. 1970.
- James McCluskey (*ciliaris*). Boy employed by R.J. Brien, c. 1976.
- Betty Macdonald (*cinerea*). Mrs. Macdonald of Taynult, wife of finder, 1957
- Christina MacDonal (*cinerea*). Mrs. Bezzant's mother, of Bettyhill, 1974.
- Diana Macdonald (*cinerea*). Younger sister of finder, N. Macdonald of Taynult, 1971.
- Mrs. H.V. Manning (*Daboecia x scotica*). Of Manning's Heather Farm, Sebastopol, California, by 1976.
- Marie (*Calluna*). Finder, employee at K. Kramer's Nursery, Süddorf, Germany c. 1973.
- Maura (*mackaiana*). Miss M.J.P. Scannell of Glasnevin, finder in 1970.

- Mauvelyn (*Calluna*). Invented name, connected with flower colour, pre 1972.
- Golden Max (*Calluna*). Max is J. Dekker's, the finder's, dog, pre 1975.
- Orange Max (*Calluna*). See above.
- Red Max (*Calluna*). See above.
- Minerva (*Calluna*). Roman goddess of wisdom. At Spaeth's 1939.
- Herbert Mitchell (*Calluna*). Seedling named by H. Mitchell after himself, c. 1966.
- Morvarid (*Calluna*). Persian girl's name, c. 1970.
- Parsons Gold (*Calluna*). W.R.A. Parsons of Woolhampton, pre 1977.
- Parsons Grey Selected (*Calluna*). See above.
- Penaz (*cinerea*). Mr. Penaz, chief of State Nursery, Litomizyl, Czechoslovakia, pre 1976.
- Petra (*Calluna*). P. van Dijk, grand-daughter of P.J. Zwijnenburg, 1971
- Barbara Phillips (*Daboecia cantabrica*). Wife of Brig. C.E. Lucas Phillips, 1976.
- David Platt (*Calluna*). Seedling in his father, J. Platt's garden at Ulnes Walton, Lancs., 1975.
- Julie Ann Platt (*Calluna*). Daughter of J. Platt, by 1977.
- Platt's Surprise (*Calluna*). J. Platt of Ulnes Walton, Lancs., 1976.
- Arthur Pooley (*Calluna*). Man who noticed sport at Proudleys, 1964.
- Porter's Red (*carnea*). (Mrs. Harper in 1960's).
- Brian Proudley (*erigena*). Nurseryman and author.
- Carl Rödgers (*Calluna*). Of Soltau, Germany, (d. 1965).
- Happy Sam (*Calluna*). Nobody. Synonym of 'Braemar', c. 1972.
- Schurig's Sensation (*Calluna*). K.-H. Schurig of Barmstedt, Germany, 1967.
- John Simmerson (*Calluna*). Gt.-gt.-nephew of Mrs. Godbolt of Crowborough, 1976.
- Margaret Simmerson (*Calluna*). Gt.-gt.-niece of Mrs. Godbolt, 1976.
- Dr. Small's Seedling (*cinerea*). Dr. A.W. Small of Middlesborough; plant from Co. Galway, by 1977.
- Valerie Smith (*vagans*). Daughter of S. Dawson of Wakefield, 1970.
- Stella Felicity (*cinerea*). (Sparkes, 1972).
- Jack Stitt (*x darleyensis*). Lt.Col. J. Stitt of Blairgowrie, by 1977.
- Susan (*Calluna*). (Maxwell & Beale.)
- Sylvia (*Calluna*). Mrs. Douglas Ward of Lawton Tower, York, c. 1970.
- Terrick's Orange (*Calluna*). (Harlow Car, 1975).
- Hilda Turberfield (*Calluna*). Wife of C. Turberfield of Blyth, Notts., pre 1976.

- Amanda Wain (*Calluna*). (Woolworths, 1977):
 Waley's Red (*Daboecia cantabrica*). F.R. Waley of Sevenoaks,
 finder, in Spain c. 1970
 Wanda (*carnea*). (At Pennyacres Nurseries by 1976).
 Gwen Whatmore (*cinerea*). Of Lyndhurst, Hants., 1973.
 Claire Wilkinson (*carnea*). Gt.-grandmother of the Simmersons,
 1976.
 Alison Yates, (*Calluna*). Seedling in her father's nursery, 1973.
 Heather Yates (*Daboecia cantabrica*). As above, by 1977.
 Yvonne (*cinerea*). Daughter of D. Boer of Boskoop, finder, 1976.
 Yvonne Claire (*Calluna*). Miss Wilson, niece of raiser, H. Mitchell of
 Yorks., 1972.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

- Altadena (*carnea*). Home of Mrs. Godbolt of Crowborough, c. 1973.
 Angarrack (*cinerea*). Village in Cornwall, 1974.
 Barnellan (*cinerea*). Cottage near Tarbet, Scotland, c. 1973.
 Beoley Crimson (*Calluna*). Village near Sparkes nursery, Worcs., pre
 1973.
 Beoley Pink (*carnea*). As above.
 Beoley Silver (*Calluna*). As above.
bethurica (australis). Roman region between rivers Betis and Urium in
 S. Spain.
 Braeval (*Calluna*)(not Briavel) Hill at Aberfoyle, by 1972.
 Bucklebury Red (*cinerea*). Common near Newbury, Berks., by 1977.
 Callander (*cinerea*). Town in Perthshire, by 1976.
 Covadonga (*Daboecia cantabrica*). N. Spain, 1973.
 Dart's Amethyst (*Calluna*). Darthuizer Nurseries, Leersum, Holland,
 by 1976
 Dart's Beauty (*Calluna*). As above.
 Dart's Brilliant (*Calluna*). As above.
 Dart's Flamboyant (*Calluna*). As above.
 Dart's Hedgehog (*Calluna*). As above, by 1977.
 Dart's Parrot (*Calluna*). As above, by 1976.
 Dart's Squirrel (*Calluna*). As above.
 Dart's Surprise (*Calluna*). As above.
 Dømmesmoen (*carnea*). Horticultural School in Norway, by 1971.
 Dunkeld White (*Calluna*). Town in Perthshire, 1976.
 Dunnet Lime (*Calluna*). Dunnet Head, Caithness, 1972.
 Dunoon Queen (*Calluna*). Town in Argyll, Scotland, 1976.
 Dunreggan (*x darleyensis*). (Part of Moniaive, Dumfriesshire where
 Olive and Hunter's nursery is situated. 1978)
 Dunwood (*Calluna*). Hamlet in Staffs., near Warners' nursery, by
 1977.
 Egdon Heath (*ciliaris*). Heath in Thomas Hardy's novels, set in S.E.
 Dorset, named 1978.

- Estrella Gold (*arborea*). Sierra da Estrela, Portugal, 1972.
 Felthorpe (*cinerea*). Village in Norfolk, pre 1978.
 galaica (*erigena*). Galicia, Spain, 1946.
 Glendoick Silver (*Calluna*). Gardens near Perth, by 1975.
 Glen Mashie (*Calluna*). Scottish distillery, by 1973.
 Glen Roy (*cinerea*). Near Fort William, Scotland, by 1970.
 Hamlet Green (*Calluna*). The Hamlet, Hall Green, Birmingham, Mr. A. Turner's house, 1972.
 Heidberg (*Calluna*). Hospital at Hamburg/Langenhorn, pre 1968.
 L'Ancrese (*Calluna*). The common in N. Guernsey, 1969.
 Leon (*Calluna*). Village S. of Bordeaux, France 1969.
 Linford (*tetralix*). Village NE. of Ringwood, Hants., 1963.
 Mercedes Gold (*scoparia*). Teneriffe, 1972.
 Mizzen (*Calluna*). Mizzen Head, farthest S. tip of Ireland, by 1976.
 Moss Morar (*Calluna*) - (not Mossy Morar) Area near Clydebank, Scotland, by 1976.
 Murcar (*cinerea*). Golf course near Aberdeen, c. 1974.
 Norden (*ciliaris*). Norden Heath, Dorset, 1929.
 Oxabach Carpet (*Calluna*). Oxabach Mountain, Sweden, pre 1976.
 Picos Pygmy (*arborea*). Picos do Europa, Spain, 1972.
 Putford Pink (*x darleyensis*). West Putford, Holsworthy, Devon; village of L. Woolner's house, c. 1976.
 Rijnveld (*cinerea*). Street in Boskoop, with nursery of R. Zwijnenburg, finder in Portugal, 1972.
 St. Kilda Whites (*Calluna*). Island group in N. Atlantic, off Scotland, by 1966.
 Sedlonov (*Calluna*). Village in Czechoslovakia, pre 1975.
 Springbank (*Calluna*). (at Pennyacres in 1975)
 Spring Cottage Crimson (*carnea*). Mrs. Parris's house near Usk, S. Wales, by 1976.
 Sutherland Late (*Calluna*). County of N W Scotland, by 1976.
 Tabramhill (*Daboecia x scotica*). G. Yates nursery, then near Nottingham, by 1976.
 Terschelling (*tetralix*). Dutch island, plant found near Hoorn, 1972.
 Torogay (*Calluna*). Islet off N coast of N Uist, and house opposite, belonging to sister of finder, 1975
 Torrisdale Bay (*Calluna*). Sutherland, N Scotland, by 1976.
 vetonicae (*erigena*). for plant from Province Caceras, Spain.
 Wentwood Red (*carnea*). In Forest of Dean, c. 1965.
 West End (*cinerea*). Village near Woking, Surrey, by 1973.
 Winsley (*Calluna*). Mrs. V.O., Poole's garden at Crowborough, by 1976.

AMELIORATIONS

In addition to the names listed here for the first time, earlier entries for the following need to be amplified or amended:-

Archie Graham (*x darleyensis*). Former Superintendent of Belfast Botanic Gardens Park.

Mrs. E.A. Mitchell (*cinerea*). Wife of H. Mitchell of Nawton, Yorks., 1965.

G. Rendall (*x darleyensis*). C.D. Eason's father in law.

Roma (*Calluna*). Wife of E. Hoare.

Smith's Lawn (*cinerea*). In Windsor Great Park.

One of two other minor corrections need not be set out here.

In all, about 550 such names have now been listed, almost equally divided between people and places.

“We went to the barn, and tyed up twae prime heather lights, thrae a bunch or twae, which I had gae'd the miller lad dry on the killn ten days afore. They may talk o' *ruffies* and birk bark baith; but gie me a good heather light, weel dried on the killn, for a throat o' the Queed.”

William Scrope, *Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing in the Tweed*, 1843.

The lights referred to were used for the, then legal, method of taking salmon in low water known as “burning the water”. The fish were driven from their lies by the blazing heather, and by its light were speared with “leisters”, long-handled iron forks with five, barbed, tines.

Recent writings on Heathers 1978

- ANON. Plant of the week. *Erica carnea*. *Amateur Gardening*, 1978, 25th March p.25 "Here is heather to grow".
- ANON. Deep Freeze. *Garden News*, 1978, 19th August.
Gen. Turpin's early flowering species kept four months in deep freeze.
- ANON. Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde. *Garten Praxis*, 1977, Vol 10, p.517
Details of the new "Pflanzenliebhabergesellschaft". The Heather Society is on p 515, "important for all who like heathers".
- AUBERT, G. Relations entre le sol et cinq espèces d'Ericacées dans le sud-est de la France.
Oecologia Plantarum, Vol 13, No.3, pp.258-69.
The physio-chemical soil conditions which determine the distribution in Provence of *E. multiflora*, *E. arborea*, *E. scoparia* and *Calluna*.
- BALLESTER, A. ALBO, J.M. and VIETTEZ, E. The allelopathic potential of *Erica scoparia*. *Oecologia*, Vol 30, pp.55-61
The suppression of herbs, especially grasses, in heathlands can be explained, at least partially, by phytochemical action of *E. scoparia*.
- BANNISTER, P. Flowering and shoot extension in heath plants of different geographical origin. *Jnl. Ecology*, 66, 117-31
In *E. cinerea* and *Calluna* late flowering tended to be associated with a warm southerly origin; early flowering and a rapid rate of extension with a northerly one.
- BROUGH, P. R. and McCLINTOCK, D. Heathers with parts in fives or sixes.
Watsonia, Vol 12, No. 2, pp.156-7.
An account and assessment of those forms, unstable at least in *E. tetralix*.
- CARON, J.E.A. Ziekten en plagen in *Erica* en *Calluna*. *Groen*, Vol 10, pp.399-400.
Expert comments and advice on *Phytophthora*, Thread Mould, Grey Mould etc. and the new *Glomerella cingulata* beetle.
- COURIER, J. Good Hope for Cape Heaths, *Amateur Gardening*, 1978, 28th December pp.60-3.
Milton Hutching's nursery and good advice. Colour photos of 'Delight' and 'Snowfall'.
- DEPPE, R. Plus 12,000 Prozent. *Gartenbörse - Gartenwelt*, 46, 1136-7.
The 25th anniversary of Azerca. In 1954 members sold 27,000 *Ericas*, in 1978 4,603,300 - 12,000% up. But these will be *E. gracilis*.

- de SMIDT, J.T. Heathland vegetation in the Netherlands. *Phytocoenologia* 4(3) 258-316
A thorough "syntaxonomic" survey, for addicts.
- EAGER, A.R. Early cultivation of *Erica ciliaris* and a list of Thomas F. Bergin's writings. *Irish Naturalists Journal* 10 (8) 290.
E. ciliaris catalogued in 1804. Unpublished minutes of the RDS meeting on Friday, 7th December 1848; "The year before last a new *Erica* added to the flora of Ireland, *E. ciliaris* by Mr. Bergin".
- EAGER, A.R. NELSON, E.C. and SCANNELL, M. *Erica ciliaris* in Connemara 1846-1852. *Irish Naturalists Journal* 19 (7) 244-5.
First found in Ireland on Monday 14th September 1846. Six days later three plants received at Glasnevin from Thomas (not J.) Bergin.
- EAGER, A.R. and SCANNELL, M. William M'Calla: his published papers overlooked in scientific literature. *Irish Naturalists Journal* 19 (8) 281.
The schoolmaster at Ballynahinch who found *E. mackaiana* and died young (1814-39) of cholera. He was primarily a phycologist, but wrote also on molluscs, worms etc.
- FRENCH, J. Heather: valuable to everyone, captivating to some. *Popular Gardening*, 1978, pp.36-7.
An adequate summary.
- GROSSER, W. Die VEHA. *Gartenborsse - Gartenwelt* 77 (2) 684
The Vereinigung der Eriken, Hortensien and Azaleenkultivateure was founded in 1941. Its members produced in 1965 266,000, in 1976 1,000,000 *Erica* plants, again *E. gracilis*.
- HERMANN, P. Wachstumregulatoren bei *Erica*-hybriden. *Gartenborsse - Gartenwelt* 77 (29) 687-8.
Cycocel kept plants compact and made them more floriferous.
- HERMANN, P. Erfahrungen im Erikenbau. *Gartenborsse - Gartenwelt* 77 (41) 990-2.
Watering substrates with Previcur has prophylactic effect against *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
- HEWSON, R. The effect on heath, *Calluna vulgaris*, of excluding sheep from moorland in north-east England. *Naturalist* 1977, 133-6.
- HIEKE, K. Dir Vermehrungsverhältnisse im heutigen *Calluna*-und *Erica*-Sortiment. *Baumschulpraxis*, 1978, Nov., pp.372-3.
How well cvs. in the collection (of some 225) at Pruhonice in Czechoslovakia rooted, with illustrations.

- HOUSTON, J. Hunting heathers on Scotland's heaths. *Horticulture* (Boston, Mass.) Vol LVI, No. 4, pp.54-7.
 "Heather competes with the rosethereby making the roster of the Heather Association (*sic*) an international one". The author met Mr. Brien.
- JANKE, I. Eriken und Ihre Begleiter. *Garten*, 1978, Dec., pp.14-16.
 Sound stuff on heathers and a bit on companion plants.
- KAMPS, F. Eine Auswahl spat-bluhender Heidesorten. *Gartenpraxis*, 11, pp.567-8.
 A knowledgeable commentary.
- KIRSTEN, G. Dr.Hans Dulfer. *Veld & Flora*, Vol 63, No.4,pp.13-4
 An account of this monographer of *Erica*, (1900-77), with a coloured drawing of his *E. cristata*.
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 An excellent account of the relevant "splendour of *Calluna vulgaris* and other species.

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"You may not consider heathers an essential requirement of your design.....their presence will be an infinite improvement".

NELSON, E.C. Craiggamore, the earliest record. *Irish Naturalists Journal*, Vol 19, No.7, p.250.

The name of the *locus classicus* for *E. mackaiana*, still unmarked on any map, dated back to 2nd September 1835.

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Short but sound.

TRADESCANT. Crown of Heather. *The Garden*, 1978, Vol 103, No. 3, p.86

The *E. gracilis* outside Buckingham Palace.

VEGH, I., BAILLOT, F. and ROY, J. Etude de l'activite de l'ethylophosphite d'aluminium vis-a-vis de *Phytiatrie-Phytopharmia cinnamomi*. 26 (1) 85-95.

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- VEGH, I., FABER, E. and le BERNE, A. Nouvelles perspectives de lutte contre *Phytophthora cinnomami*. *Horticulture française*, Vol 91, pp.7-14.
 Good control in *E. gracilis* and *E. hiemalis* obtained with aluminium tri-o-ethyl phosphonate, and growth stimulated.
- VICKERS, G.P. The heather trials. *The Garden*, 1977, Vol 102, No. 10, pp.412-3.
 An account of the Harlow Car trials.
- WEBER, H. Forderungen der Friedhofsgartner. *Gartenborse - Gartenwelt* 77 (29) 688-9.
 Red-flowered *E. gracilis* preferred. These should be chosen to flower from mid-September to early October - earlier if it is too dry.
- WILL, H. and HERMANN, P. Schaumstoffe auch zu Torfsubstraten: Versuchsergebnisse mitEricen. *Gartenborse - Gartenwelt* 77 (36) 863-4
 The addition of Hygromull, Styromull or Hygropor to peat increases water-holding capacity and water availability to plants, with a simultaneous increase in aeration.
- WHITSEY, T. Winter-flowering Heathers, *Popular Gardening*, 1978, 9th Dec., pp.12-3.
 Just praise.
- WINTER, J.H.S. *Erica nana*. *Vald & Flora* 64 (3) 81-2.
 This dwarf yellow-flowered species was introduced in 1774 as *E. depressa* (although Linnaeus had given this name to a different white-flowered plant in 1771). It has lately been refound and re-introduced but, "in captivity it does not set seed".
- WOOD, B. Here's more heathers. *Amateur Gardening*, 1978, 29th July, pp.20-1.
 Easy ways of increasing heathers, including in a jar of water.

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