

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Erica tetralix*

**CROSS-LEAVED HEATH** is an evergreen shrub. Native to temperate Europe (including Britain) it has purplish stems, tiny pink flowers.

It is also known as Bell heath, Bell heather, Bog heather, *Bruëthe* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Cross-leaved heather, Cross-leaf heath, *Grug Deilgroes* (Welsh), *Glocken-Heide* (German), *Klockljung* (Swedish), *Klokkelyng* (Danish), Plains eryngo, *Sumpfheide* (German), Swamp heath, *Vanlig klockljung* (Swedish), *Vřesovec čtyřřadý* (Czech), *Vřesovec ladní* (Czech), and *Wrzosiec bagienny* (Polish).

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

The plant is an endangered species in Poland where it is subject to protective laws.

*Tetralix* means ‘four leaves arranged cross-wise’ and for some authorities is an old Greek name that has been applied to this species because of its leaf arrangement.

There are those who note that the flower is believed to have been found in the West of England (near Truro in Cornwall) by H.C. Watson.

This and bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) are the most common species of the genus found in Europe – and also like bell heather is responsible for much of the honey made by bees.

In parts of Scotland cross-leaved heath was a source of a yellow dye. It has also been used for tanning and for making brushes and brooms – and the stems and roots have been used for basketry.

Cross-leaved heather is the clan plant badge of the MacAllisters.