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Phyllodoce caerulea

[Synonyms : *Andromeda caerulea*, *Andromeda coerulea*, *Andromeda taxifolia*, *Bryanthus caeruleus*, *Bryanthus taxifolius*, *Erica coerulea*, *Menziesia coerulea*, *Menziesia taxifolia*, *Phyllodoce taxifolia*]

BLUE HEATH is an evergreen shrub. Native to northern temperate circumpolar regions (including Britain where it is now rare) it has small, bell-shaped, lilac to purplish-pink flowers with several stamens.

It is also known as *Blålyng* (Norwegian), Blue mountain heath, *Ezotsugazakura* (Japanese), *Fjälljung* (Swedish), *Kurjenkanerva* (Finnish), *Lappljung* (Swedish), Mountain heath, and *Sininen kurjenkanerva* (Finnish).

It is a protected plant in Britain under Schedule 2 of Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975, and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Caerulea is Latin (blue) meaning 'dark blue or sky blue'

Blue heath is cultivated as an ornamental plant.

The shrub featured on Norwegian stamps that were issued in 1973.