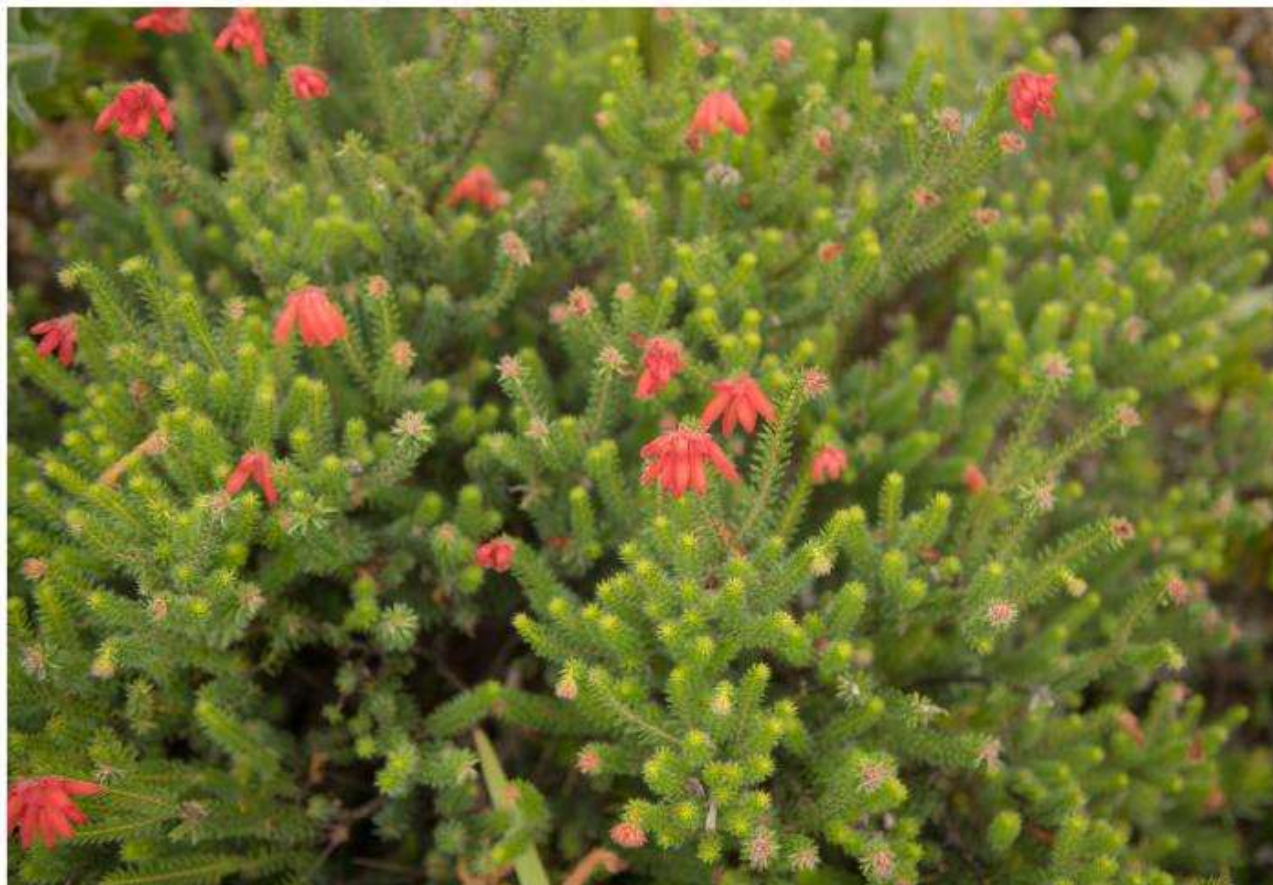


FIRE HEATH



Erica cerinthoides

Fire Heath/Klipheide

PLANT TYPE: SHRUB

SA DISTRIBUTION: EASTERN CAPE, FREE STATE, GAUTENG, KWAZULU-NATAL,
LIMPOPO, MPUMALANGA, WESTERN CAPE

SOIL TYPE: CLAY

FLOWERING SEASON: SPORADIC/ALL YEAR

PH: ACID

FLOWER COLOUR: RED, WHITE, ORANGE

ASPECT: FULL SUN

Erica cerinthoides, commonly known as **Fire Heath**, is one of those rugged fynbos species that manages to look delicate while secretly being tougher than half the people who try “just one more trail run” after the holidays.

This fiery little shrub lights up the landscape just when many other plants start looking a bit tired from summer’s heat. With its vivid blooms and remarkable ability to thrive in the most challenging conditions, it’s a standout species for the month.

KLIPHEIDE



Characteristics

Erica cerinthoides is a compact, bushy shrub, usually between **30 cm** and **1 m** tall, although it occasionally grows taller in favourable spots. Its leaves are short, narrow, and neatly arranged around the stem, giving it a velvety, finely textured appearance typical of the Erica family.

The real attraction, of course, is the flowers. Fire Heath produces tubular blooms in fiery shades of **red**, **orange**, or occasionally **pink**. These flowers cluster near the tips of the stems and appear almost year-round, though summer often brings a particularly generous display.

This species is naturally adapted to tough conditions. It **tolerates wind**, forms part of fire-dependent ecosystems, and is remarkably resilient. Plant it in **full sun** and **well-drained**, sandy soil, and it will reward you with colour and wildlife activity.

FIRE HEATH



Why The Fire Heath?

Perfect for Local Gardens: *Erica cerinthoides* is naturally at home in the Garden Route and fits beautifully into Outeniquasbosch's indigenous landscape. Its waterwise nature and minimal maintenance needs make it ideal for rehabilitation areas and native gardens.

Pollinator Heaven: Its bright flowers produce nectar that attracts birds—especially sunbirds—along with bees and other small pollinators. Planting it is like putting out a welcome mat for wildlife.

Excellent for Erosion-Prone Areas: The plant's root system helps stabilise soil, making it useful for slopes and rehabilitating disturbed areas.

Year-Round Beauty: With its evergreen foliage and regular blooms, it adds cheerful colour even in the hottest months. It's a great way to keep gardens lively in the peak of summer when many species pause their display.