

JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE



Common Heath

The beautiful bell-like blooms of Common Heath come in many colours, but the pink form has been Victoria's floral emblem since 1958.

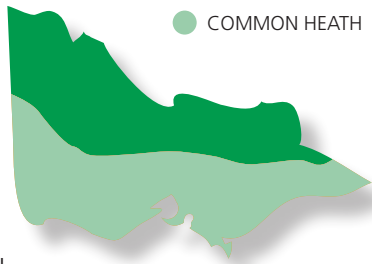


Common Heath is a small shrub that likes to grow in Victorian coastal heathlands and can also be found in the mountains and foothills. The bell-shaped flowers can bloom year-round. Birds like honeyeaters find Common Heath a tasty treat and will slurp up nectar when they're hungry.



Where are they found?

As the name suggests, Common Heath is very common! You can find it all over Victoria, especially in parks like:



- Brisbane Ranges National Park
- Grampians National Park
- Anglesea Heath

Who needs a snack?



The sweet nectar of Common Heath attracts many birds and insects, who pollinate the plants. **Draw some birds and insects around the bells of the Common Heath.**



Victoria's network of parks and reserves form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria respects the deep and continuing connection that Traditional Owners have to these landscapes and recognises their ongoing role in caring for Country.

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Birds like honeyeaters find Common Heath a tasty treat but did you know that they also help to pollinate as they move from flower to flower?

For pollination to happen, pollen must be moved from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma. Pollen can be moved by animals, insects, water or wind. Once pollinated, a plant starts to produce seeds.

Pollinator Challenge

Do you think the colour of a flower attracts different pollinators?

Find a safe spot where there are lots of different coloured flowers around (remember to look up at the trees too) and spend five minutes watching all the busy pollinators.

Fill in the table to show which coloured flowers are visited by which animals. It is thought that butterflies like brightly coloured flowers, like yellows and oranges, bees like blue and violet flowers, and birds like the honeyeater prefer pink and purple flowers. Do you agree? Send in your results and your answer to juniorrangers@parks.vic.gov.au






What can you do to help?

Why not plant a rainbow garden at home using different coloured flowers and see who comes to visit?

Always remind the grown-ups that pollinators are harmed by pest sprays, so it's best to avoid using them or only use them after dusk when busy pollinators like bees are tucked up in their homes.



COLOUR	BIRD 		BEE 		BUTTERFLY 	
	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 1	DAY 2
YELLOW						
ORANGE						
RED						
PINK						
PURPLE						
VIOLET						
BLUE						