

Moorland Plug Plant Guide



Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **40 - 50**

COTSX (COTAA, COTCH, COTSS, COTYD, COTYN, COTYE, COTBN, COTSF)

A sedge species distributed widely across the UK in areas of healthy peatland habitat with a relatively high water table. Produces distinctive fluffy white seedheads in summer months. Hardy and suitable as a pioneer species, a useful nurse plant for sphagnum in early stages of peatland recovery where vegetation cover is low.



Hare's Tail Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **40 - 50**

HAISX (HAIAA, HAIC2, HAICH, HAISS, HAISD, HAISK, HAIYD)

This species also produces fluffy seedheads in warmer months, though these are rounder and more compact than those of common cottongrass. Tolerates a wide range of water table depths but is best suited to wetter areas. After fires this pioneering species is quick to reestablish, so is often dominant on previously cleared sites.



Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **55 - 65**

CROXX (CROCL, CROHC, CRONR, CROPK, CROIF, CROST, CROTM)

Grows low and creeps horizontally when planted on open ground. Flowers in spring/summer and produces edible fruit in autumn/winter. Useful for stabilising peat and preventing erosion prior to sphagnum planting. More suitable in areas with a lower water table, and capable of withstanding periods of desiccation.



Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **65 - 75**

BILXX (BILBY, BILIF, BILNR, BILPK, BILSK, BILSO, BILST, BILTM, BILCL)

This hardy species is found throughout most of UK and is not endemic to moorland habitats, also occurring commonly in woodlands. It is capable of withstanding moderate water table variability and is most suitable for planting on peat hag tops. Like crowberry, it produces edible fruit in late summer.



Cross Leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **55 - 65**

ETLXX (ETLIX, ETETR, ETTKI, ETSLK)

A species tolerant of the range of water table depths associated with seasonal fluctuation. Leaves form in characteristic whorls of four. Occurs in the majority of acidic moorland habitats in the UK, though primarily the dominant heather species in wetter moorlands. Suitable for planting on gully slopes and hag tops to stabilise bare peat.



Common Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **45 - 55**

CALXX (CALPD, CALPE, CALSK)

Also tolerant of a wide range of hydrological conditions and occurring broadly throughout the UK. Typically dominant on drier heathland and moorland habitats, more sparsely distributed in upland peatlands. Planted primarily on peat hag tops to stabilise and prevent erosion.



Purple Heather (*Erica cinerea*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **45 - 55**

ERCIN

Occurs broadly across European moorlands and heathlands. Adapted to a slightly lower water table and is most suitable for planting on peat hag tops for stabilisation as it grows low and sprawls across the peat surface. Produces leaves in whorls of three and relatively large bell-shaped purple flowers.



Cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*)

Approx. weeks to
saleable: **80 - 90**

CLUXX (CLUPK, CLUNR, CLUWP)

A species is characteristic of upland moorland habitats in areas with a relatively high water table, suitable for planting on peat hag tops and slopes. Produces large white flowers and edible orange fruit in the summer months. Difficult to propagate- carried out in the lab.