

Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

Small Round-Leaved Orchid (*Amerorchis rotundifolia* (Banks) Hulten)



This is the only species of the Genus *Amerorchis*. Originally included in the *Orchis* genus, taxonomical differences resulted in reclassification and the name *Amerorchis* was proposed for this North American species. In Manitoba the small round-leaved orchid is found in suitable habitat from the United States border in the south to the northern border with Nunavut. In Canada, its range extends from Newfoundland across the country to British Columbia and includes the Yukon.

In the south, this plant prefers cool shaded beds of sphagnum in black spruce and tamarack bogs where significant colonies can occur. Blooming dates began in early June through the south to mid-July in the north. Companion orchids in the south-east often include *Goodyera repens*, *Listera cordata*, *Cypripedium reginae* and *Cypripedium arietinum*. On the northern tundra surrounding Churchill this plant grows in exposed locations and the plants are dwarfed in comparison to the southern populations.

Four to eight flowers are normally found on an inflorescence. Individual flowers examined with a magnifying lense remind observers of an angel with a spotted dress.