

# Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

## Sparrow's Egg Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium passerinum* var. *passerinum*)



This attractive *Cypripedium* species prefers the cool climate of northern Manitoba and can be abundant at appropriate locations near Churchill. More difficult to find further south, its range at the southern limit does include the Duck Mountains. The banks of streams, rivers and lakeshores are the preferred habitats although it may also be found in moist woods of the boreal forest.

A beautiful small flowered orchid, the Latin and common names come from the resemblance of the lip to a sparrow's-egg. The folded and elongated leaves clasp the stem and overlap each other giving this orchid a leafy appearance. A high rate of seed production is attributed to a mechanism of self-pollination in this species. As the flower ages, the anthers are drawn into direct contact with the stigma.

Blooming times at Churchill can fluctuate widely, from the third week of June to near the end of July. Further south look for it from mid to late June.