

# Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

## Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae* Walt.)



The scientific name of this orchid comes from the Latin *regina* meaning "queen" which is an apt description of this impressive plant.

The range of this regal orchid extends from the south-east in a broad diagonal band that includes Austin along the Trans-Canada Highway in the west to the boggy areas north of Grand Rapids and the Pas and enters Saskatchewan only at the Duck Mountains. It prefers the moist habitat of black spruce and tamarack bogs, wet meadows and fens, adapting to weakly acidic and calcareous substrates in both shade and full sun. Roadside ditches can be one of the most productive sites when looking for this orchid. Blooming begins in late June and extends into July. Plants produce either single stems or multiple stems from one rhizome, with each stem producing from one to as many as four (rarely) flowers. Plants growing in shaded locations are usually much taller than those in open sunlit areas. The colour of the pouch varies from a deep pink or rose to pale pink and an albino (pure white pouch) form has been reported from several locations.

Touching the leaves of this orchid can produce a rash similar to that of poison ivy.