

# Manitoba Species at Risk

## Small White Lady's-slipper

*Cypripedium candidum*



MHHC

Small White Lady's-slipper Range Map



\* Range map based on potential range.

The Small White Lady's-slipper is a provincially and federally Endangered wild orchid. It is well-known for the small, white, slipper-shaped flower, for which it gets its name.

Native to eastern North America, the Canadian populations of this orchid can only be found in Manitoba and Ontario. Manitoba's populations are widespread, with three distinct populations in south-eastern Manitoba (Tall Grass Prairie Preserve), the Brandon area, and the southern Interlake. Manitoba's largest population is in the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, which is home to an estimated 50-90% of all Small White Lady's-slippers in Manitoba.



Federally  
Endangered

### Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

- Conserve and restore Tall-grass Prairie
- Protect plants from poaching
- Conduct prescribed burns in early spring to suppress encroachment of woody vegetation and remove thatch
- Control of invasive species, particularly Leafy Spurge and St. John's Wort, through selective herbicide use and biological control
- Mow after Small White Lady's-slippers have seeded (August)
- Maintain low to medium grazing levels

Co-benefiting Species: The BMPs listed for this species may also benefit Western Prairie Fringed-orchids and Monarch butterflies.

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### Description

The Small White-Lady's-slipper is a perennial orchid that measures up to 40 cm in height and grows in clumps of one to many stems. Each stem has two to four narrow leaves and one white pouch-shaped "slipper" flower that has purplish marks surrounded by twisted, greenish-yellow petals.

### Habitat

In Canada, the Small White Lady's-slipper grows in moist, native prairie and wetland fens. Very particular habitat requirements limits this plant's ability to increase populations under natural conditions.

### Threats

Major threats to the Small White Lady's-slipper include habitat loss and degradation, due to encroachment of woody vegetation and thatch accumulation, resource competition with invasive species (such as Leafy Spurge and St. John's Wort), and the illegal collection of plants by amateur, commercial and scientific collectors.

### Outlook

Recovery of the Small White Lady's-slipper is considered to be technically and biologically feasible. Objectives for the recovery of this species include the maintenance of current populations through habitat protection, management, stewardship, and monitoring and research.

### Producer Benefits

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment process, enabling farm managers to develop an action plan to address agri-environmental assets and risks in their operation. Completion of an EFP may qualify you for funding to implement BMPs on your land. For more information or to register, contact your local Manitoba Agriculture office.

Beyond the species benefits, BMPs can help your operation through:

- Access to on-farm programs and incentives
- Meet emerging market demands for sustainable sourcing
- Increased agricultural sustainability
- Greater resilience to events such as insect outbreaks, floods and droughts
- Better pest control and management
- Improved water quality, quantity and erosion control
- Improved pasture and forage

For more information regarding beneficial management practices on your land, please contact Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation or the organizations listed below.

## FUN FACT

Individual Small White Lady's-slipper plants may not flower for up to 16 years!

### Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

[www.mhhc.mb.ca](http://www.mhhc.mb.ca)

### Conservation Data Centre

[www.manitoba.ca/sd/cdc](http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/cdc)

### Manitoba Agriculture

[www.manitoba.ca/agriculture](http://www.manitoba.ca/agriculture)

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