



# Species at Risk Profile Series: Small White Lady's-slipper



- Small White Lady's-slipper is listed as Threatened in Canada.
- Look for an 11-40 cm orchid with 3-4 broad leaves clasping the stem and one pouch-shaped white flower with purplish veins.
- It is typically found in calcareous prairie or fen habitats with a high water table.
- Seedlings require at least 12 years before flower production occurs.
- Flower buds are produced in the year prior to flower production.
- Pollinated flowers will produce thousands of microscopic, wind-dispersed seeds.
- New plants also grow from existing plants' roots, making plant age impossible to estimate.
- Plants can remain dormant underground for several years, waiting for the right conditions.
- Plants form associations with root fungi, which provide energy for the germinating seeds.
- It relies on small 6-8 mm bees for pollinating its flowers.





## Conservation

- Habitat loss and degradation are the greatest concerns for Small White Lady's-slipper.
- Tall-grass prairie has been almost entirely (>99%) converted to agriculture.
- Encroachment of woody vegetation reduces available habitat.
- Regular fires reduce the amount of dead vegetation on the ground, creating better growing conditions.
- Invasive plants reduce diversity and habitat quality.
- Illegal collection and recreational vehicle use both harm existing stands.

## Get involved

- Read the recovery strategy Small White Lady's-slipper [here](#).

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Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2014. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Small White Lady's-slipper *Cypripedium candidum* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. xii + 48 pp. ([www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default\\_e.cfm](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm)).