

small yellow lady's-slipper orchid

Cypripedium parviflorum

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Liliopsida
Order: Orchidales
Family: Orchidaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

state endangered, native

FEATURES

Small yellow lady's-slipper orchid is a perennial herb that grows from thick roots. Its upright, unbranched, hairy stems have leaves in an alternate arrangement along them. These simple, entire, hairy leaves may be six inches long and two inches wide. Flowers are borne solitary to a few at the stem tip. The yellow, slipper-shaped flowers with violet stripes may be two and one-half inches long. The fruit is a capsule that contains tiny seeds. Small yellow lady's-slipper orchid may attain a height of two feet.

BEHAVIORS

Small yellow lady's-slipper orchid may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in forests, wetlands and fields. Flowers are produced from April through May. Insects are the main pollinating agent, while the wind disperses the seeds.

ILLINOIS RANGE





Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none