

Showy orchid

Galearis spectabilis

Species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable

4 to 20 cm



CHARACTERISTICS

- Small orchid with beautiful purple and white flowers.
- Two thick, rounded leaves at the base.



OBSERVATION PERIODS

Identification: spring

Flowers: mid-May to mid-June

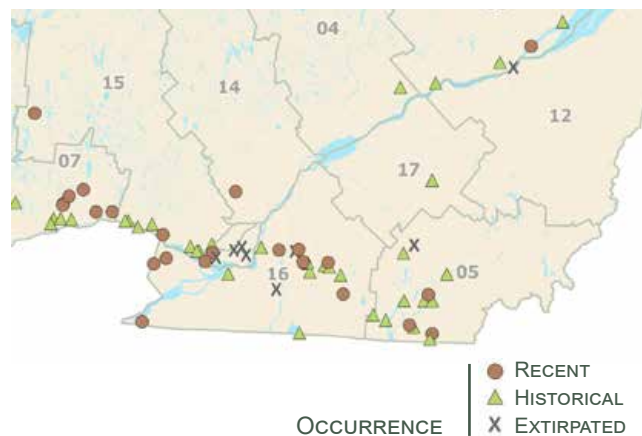
Fruits: summer



HABITAT

- Partially open, rich sugar maple stands with beech.
- Grows generally on moist soils rich in organic matter.
- Sometimes in the lower part of a slope.

DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



MAIN THREATS

- Loss of habitat.
- White-tail deer and slug browsing.
- Gathering of plants.
- Drainage changes causing soil to dry out.
- Forest practices not adapted to species sensitivity (high intensity cutting).

MANAGE YOUR FOREST WHILE PROTECTING AT-RISK FLORA

Your woodlot contributes to the protection of forest species in precarious situations. It is often preferable to avoid forest management interventions in their habitats. If such activities must be carried out, the protection of these species requires the following precautions:

STEP 1: IDENTIFY AND LOCATE THE SPECIES

Onsite, during the appropriate identification period, locate all the plants of the species (or have this done by a competent person). Then outline the zones where they are found (occupied zones) as well as the surrounding buffer zone.



STEP 2: PROTECT THE PLANTS

This species requires particular attention. It is listed as a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable because the available information suggests that its survival is compromised.



STEP 3: AVOID MAJOR DISTURBANCES

in the occupied and buffer zones

- Ø Landing (wood piling) areas
- Ø Forest road construction
- Ø Forest drainage
- Ø Clearcuts
- Ø Scarification of the forest floor



STEP 4 : ADAPT PRACTICES BASED ON SPECIES SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity to opening of the forest canopy

Low to moderate

In the occupied and buffer zones, opening of the forest canopy is allowed. Use partial cuts or low-intensity thinning to maintain shade and its beneficial effect on soil moisture, and also to limit competition to which the species is very vulnerable.



Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

Low to moderate

In the occupied and buffer zones, avoid altering drainage and minimize soil compaction: use an adapted skidder or forwarder and plan logging trails on soils with adequate load-bearing capacity.



Sensitivity to trampling and mechanical damage

Low to moderate

In the occupied zone, only carry out forestry work on frozen ground in winter. Avoid skidding trails unless heavy snow cover protects the ground from trampling.



Avoid leaving logging residues (branches, etc.).



If the plant cannot be identified or located, apply the protection measures to the entire forest stand.

Advise forest workers about plant locations as well as protection measures to apply.

This fact sheet was developed through the integration of scientific elements and discussions between experts from the MRNF and the MELCCFP. The recommendations may evolve as new knowledge becomes available. For references, please visit afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies.