

Greater round-leaved orchid

Platanthera macrophylla

Species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec

30 to 60 cm



MFFP / Pierre Petitclerc



CHARACTERISTICS

- Orchid with two almost round leaves flattened to the ground at the base, topped by a stem 30 to 60 cm long.
- Spikes of 9 to 33 greenish-white flowers with a long spur (28 to 46 mm).
- Nearly identical to the lesser round-leaved orchid that has a shorter spur (less than 28 mm).

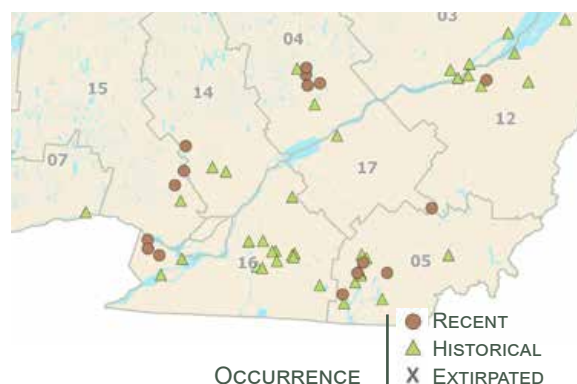


OBSERVATION PERIODS

IDENTIFICATION | late spring / early summer
FLOWERS | mid-June to mid-August



DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



HABITAT

- Deciduous, coniferous or mixed forests in advanced stages of succession.
- Soils rich in organic matter.
- Often in sugar maple, hemlock and beech stands.
- Associated with eastern hemlock.



MAIN THREATS

Excessive opening of the forest cover associated with human interventions.

The limited number of occurrences of the species in Quebec, most of which were last confirmed more than 20 years ago, combined with its small, low-viability local populations, contribute to its precarious status at the northern limit of its range.

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

High

Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

Low to moderate

Sensitivity to trampling and mechanical damage

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.

IN THE OCCUPIED ZONE • Since the species is vulnerable to excessive light, avoid opening the forest canopy to maintain shade and its beneficial effect on soil moisture.

- Carry out forestry operations only on frozen ground in winter.
- Avoid skidding trails unless heavy snow cover protects the ground from trampling.
- Avoid leaving logging residues (branches, etc.).

IN THE BUFFER ZONE • Opening of the forest canopy is allowed. Use partial cuts or low-intensity thinning.



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.

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