

Some Native Orchids of Marin County

Calypso bulbosa, fairy slipper:

About the earliest orchid to flower in March and perhaps the prettiest.

Some years we are lucky enough to have large numbers on Mt. Tamalpais under Douglas-fir, from Rock Spring to Laurel Dell particularly.

Corallorhiza maculata, spotted coral-root:

A parasitic/mycotrophic orchid usually associated with Douglas-fir.

The non-spotted variety is var. *occidentalis*, it is often associated with broad-leaf trees such as coast live oak and bay-laurel.

Corallorhiza striata, striped coral-root:

This orchid usually flowers in May in broad-leaved evergreen forests.

Usually several plants grow on Mt. Burdell near the western water-tank access road. Other sites include Roy's Redwoods, San Geronimo.

Epipactis gigantea, stream orchid:

Flowers in June in Samuel P. Taylor State Park, along Lagunitas Creek. Also in the marshes near the Bull Point trail, Pt. Reyes N.S.

Epipactis helleborine, broad-leaved epipactis

This is an orchid that is a weed! It has spread widely in Marin from an accidental introduction.

Goodyera oblongifolia, rattlesnake-plantain:

This orchid is one of the latest to flower-in August- on Mt. Tamalpais.

It is most easily found along the trail from Rock Spring to Laurel Dell under Douglas-fir trees.

Piperia elegans, coastal rein orchid:

Marin has two subspecies: *ssp. elegans* is reasonably common along the coast and flowers in July and August. *Ssp. decurtata* is very rare and grows only on the Chimney Rock peninsula and near the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse. The two *ssp.* differ in perfume and flower-spur length.

Piperia elongata, long-spurred rein orchid:

This species grows in several places in Marin and flowers in June and July. It can usually be found in the woods along the east side of Deer Island in Novato.

Piperia michaelii, Michael's rein orchid:

Reported only once in recent years -from the granitic hills east of Abbotts Lagoon.

Piperia transversa, "horizontal-spurred" rein orchid:

Also easily found most years in June and July in the woodlands of Mt. Tamalpais. Less commonly seen on Mt. Burdell, Novato, on the rocks just west of San Andreas Drive fire road.

Piperia unalascensis:

Uncommon in Marin and usually in flower May and June in woodland above Fairfax.

Platanthera dilatata var. leucostachys, marsh orchid:

This orchid is most easily seen on Point Reyes, in marshes (not acid bogs) in June and July.

The marsh near the Bull Point trail is a good bet, if the cattle spare them. The flowers are fragrant.

Spiranthes porrifolia, western ladies'-tresses:

Not that common in Marin, grows in moist places on Mt. Tamalpais, such as around Lake Lagunitas in July.

Spiranthes romanzoffiana, hooded ladies'-tresses:

Reasonably common in wet meadows on Pt. Reyes in July and August.

Cypripedium californicum, Lady's slipper:

The last time this orchid was found in Marin was above Muir woods, adjacent to a stream in a serpentine area.

Alice Eastwood made a fine herbarium specimen of it but that may have been the last one.



Calypso bulbosa
fairy slipper



Corallorhiza maculata
spotted coral-root



Corallorhiza striata
striped coral-root



Epipactis gigantea
stream orchid



Epipactis helleborine
broad-leaved epipactis



Goodyera oblongifolia
rattlesnake-plantain



Piperia elegans ssp. *elegans*
coastal rein orchid



Piperia elegans ssp. *decurtata*
coastal rein orchid



Piperia elongata
long-spurred rein orchid



Piperia michaelii
Michael's rein orchid



Piperia transversa
horizontal-spurred rein orchid



Piperia unalascensis
Unalaska rein-orchid



Platanthera leucostachys
marsh orchid



Spiranthes porrifolia
western ladies'-tresses



Spiranthes romanzoffiana
hooded ladies' tresses



Cypripedium californicum
ladies' slipper

Photos by Doreen and Vernon Smith except as noted.

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