

Native Orchid of the Month—November

Spiranthes lacera
(northern slender lady's tresses)

Spiranthes lacera, commonly called northern slender lady's tresses, is widely distributed across eastern and central Canada and the United States, from Alberta to Florida. It is usually between 4 and 16 inches tall and produces two to four basal leaves which usually wither before or at the time of flowering in the summer or fall. It blooms from July through October.



It bears an inflorescence of up to 40 small white flowers arranged in a tight spiral spike 1 to 6 inches long. There are 8 to 10 flowers per cycle of the spiral. The labellum or lip is less than ¼ inch long, it typically has a dark green or yellowish center, and the edges are somewhat crenulate and rolled inward.

It can be found in moist to dry meadows, fields, prairies, open woods, and disturbed areas such as

along roadsides and in lawns.

