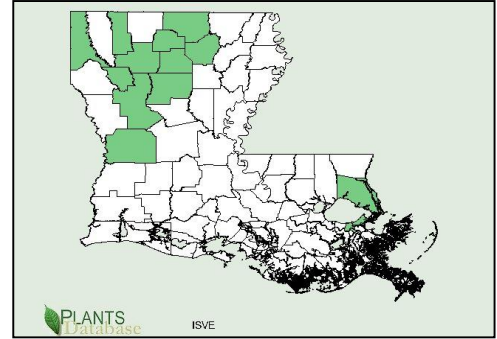


Native Orchid of the Month—April

Isotria verticillata (large whorled pogonia)

The above-ground portion of an *Isotria verticillata* (large whorled pogonia) plant consists of a purplish stem, fading to light green just beneath the whorl of five light-green leaves, which is a rather unusual anatomical configuration for an orchid. Seedlings only have their leaves, while a mature plant will have a flower nestled in the center of these. At flowering time, the leaves are just beginning to grow,



The flower is usually solitary, two inches from top to bottom. The sepals are greenish-brown with a lip that is white with green crests and brownish side lobes.



It flowers from March through July and is found most frequently on acidic soils, in dry to mesic forests, seeps, sphagnum bogs. It is distributed widely in the southern and eastern United States.

