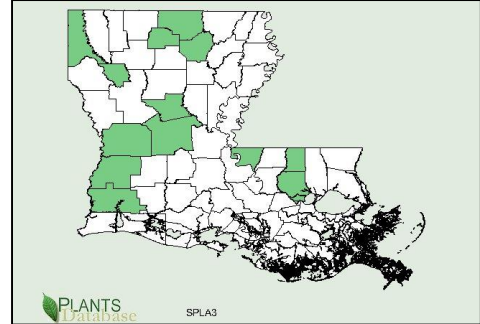


Native Orchid of the Month—April

Spiranthes laciniata (lancelip lady's tresses)

Spiranthes laciniata, commonly known as lancelip lady's tresses, has a limited distribution in the southeastern United States and southern mid-Atlantic region. But, it is found from Texas to New Jersey. It has up to five basal, grass-like leaves which persist through flowering. It produces a tightly spiraled inflorescence of multiple small, white to cream-colored flowers. The labellum or lip is often shaded with yellow at the center, and its edges are denticulate, giving it a lace-like appearance.



The main axis of the inflorescence is covered in small hairs.

The flowers mostly ascending, white to cream in color, are slenderly tubular, gaping toward apex. They occur on spikes that spiral loosely to tightly with 5 to 9 flowers per cycle of the spiral. Often fragrant, they occur on an erect, stout to slender stem, 12- to 24-inches tall.



Flowering occurs March through June (mostly May), primarily on the coastal plain in swamps, marshes, meadows, dry to damp roadsides, ditches, fields, cemeteries, and lawns; occasionally in standing water.

