

Native Orchid of the Month—July

Platanthera blephariglottis
(white fringed orchid)

Platanthera blephariglottis, known as white fringed orchid, is broadly distributed across the east coast of the United States and Canada from Florida to Newfoundland, and around the Gulf Coast states west to Texas. It produces several small stem leaves and bears an inflorescence of multiple large, showy, white flowers. The flower lip is distinctly and often heavily fringed, and the flowers have a

long nectar spur which extends back away from the lip. It can be found in bogs, wet meadows, marshes, and moist, open woodlands.



Flowering occurs from late spring until summer. The leafy stalk with 2 triangular, blue-green leaves is topped by an elongated cluster of pure white flowers with a deeply fringed lip petal. The individual flowers vary in size, but are usually about an inch in length.

This species bears heads of flowers than can be six inches tall on plants that can reach three

feet in height. Lateral sepals bent downward and outward more than 90 degrees. Petals are entirely fringed and the shape is linear and narrows toward the point of attachment.

The white fringed orchid flowers from July through September, peaking in August.

