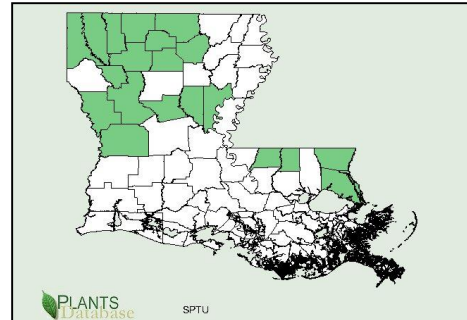


## Native Orchid of the Month—August

### *Spiranthes tuberosa* (little lady's tresses)

*Spiranthes tuberosa* (little lady's tresses) is the smallest species of *Spiranthes* and is distinguished from close relatives by its pure white flowers and single tuberous root (occasionally the previous year's tuber persists). It is found in growing in acid soils of upland pine, oak, or hickory forest (associated with granite, chert or sandstone substrata). Also in dry upland prairies and meadows of eastern and southern United States.



The plant is without a stem until flowering.

Three to 5 basal leaves occur, but dry up before flowering occurs. The flowering single stem is thin, glabrous, to 15 inches tall but typically shorter (about 4 inches), erect, herbaceous, simple, from a tuberous root. The root is pubescent, typically single but often with the previous season's root.

Flower spikes are loosely spiraled, 4 to 7 flowers per cycle of spiral and the rachis glabrous. Flowers are pure white, gaping from near middle,

sepals distinct to base, lateral sepals slightly spreading, and petals linear to lance-oblong



*S. tuberosa* flowers from June through September.

