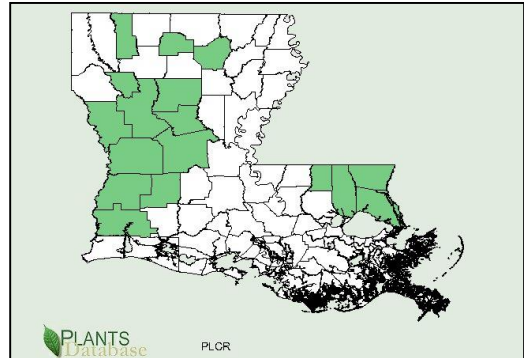


## Native Orchid of the Month—August

### *Platanthera cristata* (crested yellow orchid)

The rare perennial crested yellow orchid (*Platanthera cristata*) can be found in low moist meadows and open woods. It grows from a tuberous root with a stem that is 12- to 32-inches tall with flower heads up to 4-inches long. It has two to four lanceolate leaves that are glossy-green and lance-shaped. The leaves are about 8-inches long at the base of the stem, but much shorter higher up the stem.



The 30 to 80 flowers are borne in a showy raceme at the top of the stem. The flowers are small, about 1/2 -inch tall with elongated spurs and deeply fringed lips. They range in color from yellow to deep orange. The column forms a beak or hook over the lip, which is diagnostic for this species.



Crested yellow orchid is an attractive plant that ranges along the east and Gulf coasts and southern states. The northern limit of its range is in eastern Massachusetts.

It blooms from June through August and is found in moist sandy and peaty meadows, marshes, prairies, pine savannas, wet wooded flats, seeping slopes, and sphagnum bogs.

