

White fringed orchid

(*Platanthera blephariglottis*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

The White fringed orchid is a striking wildflower found in bogs and wet meadows from North Florida up to Newfoundland and west to Texas. The summer blooms attract many pollinators from bees to butterflies and moths.

Flowers are bright white and appear in a showy compact cluster of ten to twenty at the top of the stem. Individual flowers are about ½ inch wide, with a heavily fringed labellum and long nectar spur extending on the back. Stems are smooth and green. Leaves are alternate and lance-shaped with smooth edges. Lower leaves are larger and become reduced on the upper stem.



Photo by Emily Bell

There are two subspecies of White fringed orchid, with *Platanthera blephariglottis* var. *conspicua* inhabiting its southern range and *Platanthera blephariglottis* var. *blephariglottis* making up the northern distribution. The species epithet, *blephariglottis*, is from the Greek *blephari*, meaning “eyebrow” or “eyelash,” and *glottis*, meaning “tongue,” referring to its tongue-shaped heavily fringed lip.

Family: Orchidaceae (Orchid family)

Native range: Northern and Central Florida

To see where natural populations of White fringed orchid have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Wet peat or muck

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: Erect, 1–2 feet tall

White fringed orchids are not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see it.

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