

Cypripedium reginae:

Family: *Orchidaceae (or-kid-AY-see-ee)*

Genus: *Cypripedium (sip-rih-PEE-dee-um)*

Species: *reginae (ree-JIN-ay-ee)*

Common name: *Showy Lady's slipper, Pink and white Lady Slipper, Queen's Lady Slipper*

Existing on a variety of soil compositions, but generally associated with calcareous soil types. This species is truly a calcium lover. It can be found in openings in hardwood forests, fens, roadside ditches, raised hummocks in bogs, but the common denominator is calcium. Enjoys full morning sun with high dappled shade in the hot afternoon. Tolerates, and even enjoys, wet feet and tends to be found in higher moisture laden sites. One of our most versatile garden orchids, as it tolerates a wide range of garden soils that are fortified with Calcium applied as limestone grit, or ground oyster shells. Thoroughly mix the limestone throughout the entire vertical range of your soil mix as Ca⁺ does not migrate through the soil strata very well, tending to maintain its original placement in the soil. With proper soil conditions, this is the easiest terrestrial orchid for the home gardener to enjoy.

Recommended soil mix: *MetroMix 560 SunCair, amended with 1 cup of limestone grit per gallon of soil mix. A good rich garden soil may be used, adding 1 cup of limestone to each gallon of soil mix. PH (6.5-7.5) CEC=high*

Fertilization: *Enjoys regular feedings of ¼ strength fertilizer. We use water soluble fertilizer. Stop fertilizing when flowers open.*

Water: *Typical water supply, city, well, rain water, etc. Municipal chlorine and fluoride is not a problem in any way, its fine.*

Insect control: *We use Sevin, before flowers open, and systemic Orthene if required.*

Fungus control: *Use a systemic fungicide as per labeled directions.*

Slugs: *Commercial slug bait. (Critically important for seedlings)*

Overwintering: *Protect dormant eyes and buds from mice, voles, and squirrels. Hardware cloth may be used; remove early in spring before they break dormancy in spring. C. reginae is one of the later cyprapediums to break dormancy – patience is required as it may come up several weeks later than other cyps and you don't want to damage the buds by early season weeding in the perennial beds.*