

Cypripedium candidum:

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

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

Species: *candidum* (KAN-did-um)

Common name: *Small white Lady's slipper, White Lady's slipper*

This species is the most sun loving of all the native cypripediums. It requires full sun for most of the day. It can tolerate high overhead dappled shade but will not bloom to its full capacity in shaded areas. Existing on a variety of soil compositions, but always associated with calcareous compositions. This species is truly a calcium lover. It can be found in openings in fens, and roadside ditches, grassy fields, and prairie sites, but the common denominator is calcium. When amending soil mixes, 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.

Recommended soil mix: *MetroMix 560 SunCoir amended with 4 cups of limestone grit per gallon of soil mix. A good rich garden soil may be used, adding 4 cups of limestone to each gallon of soil mix. Oyster grit from the local feed mill commonly used for chickens works well also. CEC=med-high*

Fertilization: *Enjoys regular feedings of 1/4 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 are not a problem in any way, they're 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.*

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.*