

Wild Purple Fringed Orchid



The Purple Fringed Orchid is more common than the Lady Slipper. Its life cycle is similar to that of the Lady Slipper, but much shorter. Each July, I search for these orchids to appear. They grow in moist, rich areas of our farm. I delay grazing the herds in the areas that this orchid prefers. At least until after the orchids bloom. Most summers, I can locate ten or more on the farm. Individual plants tend to reappear for several summers. In general, they are much more transient than the very long-lived Lady Slipper. This July there are five blooming in the wet meadow east of the farmstead. Delightfully beautiful and delicate flowers. Tom July 6, 2015