**SPECIES DATA SHEET**

**Cypripedium *candidum*** Muhl ex Willd. 1805

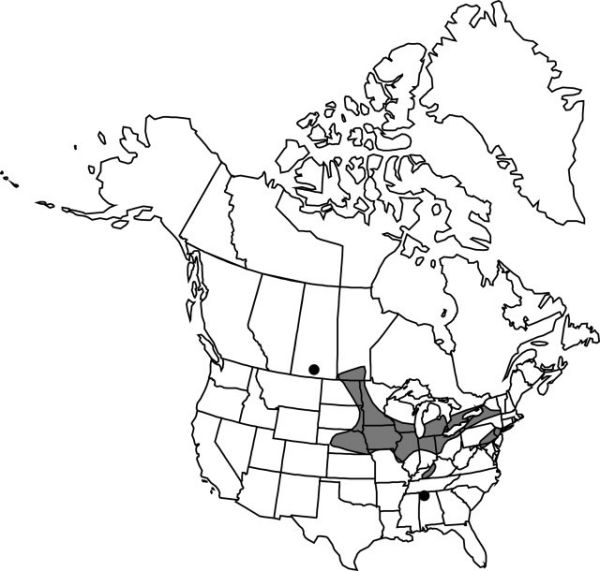
Pronounced KAN-did-um

Abbreviation: Cyp.

**Common Name Small White Lady's Slipper**

**Flower Size 3 1/2" [8.75 cm]**

Distribution:

*Cypripedium candidum* is found from western [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(state)), across southern [Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario) to [North Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Dakota), and south to [New Jersey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Jersey), Kentucky and [Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri). There are isolated populations of *Cypripedium candidum* in [Connecticut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Connecticut), [Maryland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryland), [Manitoba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manitoba), [Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia), [Alabama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama), and (formerly) [Saskatchewan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saskatchewan). It is found in wet prairies and [fens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fen), in rich, highly [calcareous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calcareous) soils, sedge meadow edges, and calcareous ditches.

Description:

*Cypripedium candidum* grows to a height of 20 to 36 cm (7.9 to 14.2 in) and is one of the smallest species of North American *Cypripedium*. It blooms from early May to June on a short, terminal, solitary to rarely 2 flowered inflorescence that is subtended by a leaf-like floral bract and carries slightly fragrant flowers. Its white pouch-like lip, sometimes dotted with maroon on the inside, is accented by tan, green or brown lateral sepals and petals, often spotted with red or purple, which twist away in spirals. It has been known to hybridize with the small yellow ladyslipper, *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin*, resulting in the natural hybrid *Cypripedium* × *andrewsii*. The leaves and stems are slightly pubescent. The plants grow in (generally) long-lived clumps, with some clumps having up to 50 or more flowers. It is a perennial, with horizontal, wiry-rooted rhizomes growing a few centimeters below the surface of the soil, and hence resistant to most prairie fires.

**Leaves:**

2 to 4 leaves on the upper part of the stem are broad to lance-elliptical, each 2 to 6 inches long, covered with short hairs and parallel veins, are alternately attached and sheath the stem. A few scale-like leaves sheath the lower part of the stem. Dense clumps of up to 50 stems emerge from a single root.

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**Flowers:**

Single to rarely two flowers on slender stem (peduncle), The inflated lower petal (the slipper) is ¾ to 1 inch long, glossy white, sometimes faint purple speckling lining pouch opening and/or faint veination on lower pouch. Bright yellow flower column, often splashed with red, broadens into a flat oval lip, appressed tightly into pouch opening. Lateral petals are narrow, to 1½ inches long, greenish brown and twisted. Sepals are similar in color; lateral sepals are fused behind the lip; upper sepal is broader and erect above the lip. The single leaf-like floral bract is up to 4¼ inches long.

**Synonyms:**

*Calceolus candidus* Nieuwl. 1913

**AOS Awards: 2**CBR *Cyp. candidum* ‘Elton Roberts’ 8 flowers on 10 inflorescences, 2001HCC *Cyp candidum*. ‘Mt. Cuba’ 3 flowers on 3 inflorescences, 2013

**Hybrids: Total of 16 registered, to the 2nd generation**

Of the 16 total progeny, only three have offspring of their own, one each. Very little has been done in hybridizing these small flowers.



***Cypripedium candidum* ‘Elton Roberts’ CBR/AOS**

**References:**

OrchidWiz Database X5.1

Orchidspecies.com

Wikipedia

Minnesota Wildflowers Info.

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