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Cypripedium reginae

[Synonyms : *Cypripedium hirsutum*, *Cypripedium spectabile*]

SHOWY LADY'S SLIPPER is an orchid. Native to northern North America (particularly the Great Lakes region), it has fragrant, white flower with a pouch-shaped lowest white petal often rose pink or purplish mottled or striped.

It is also known as Big pink-and-white, *Črievičník* (Slovak), Ducks, Female nervine, Gay lady's slipper, Large white lady's slipper, Nerve root, Pink lady's slipper, Pink and white lady's slipper, Purple blush, Queen lady's slipper, Queen's slipper, Royal lady's slipper, Shepherd's purse, Showy moccasin flower, Showy slipper, Silver slipper, *Střevičník královnin* (Czech), Whip-poor-will's shoe, White-petaled lady's slipper, and White wing moccasin.

It is a densely hairy plant.

Warning – hairs can cause inflammation and blistering similar to that obtained from poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*).

Concern has been expressed during the last five decades that showy lady's slipper needs formal protection as in many areas it has been harvested to excess.

Reginae is Latin (queen) meaning 'of the Queen' in this case the British 'Queen Victoria' (1819-1901).

This flower was adopted as a state emblem by Minnesota in the United States in 1893.

Medicinally, it was used by the North American Indians for treating some female ailments, and it has been reported that European settlers came to apply it as an antispasmodic.