

twayblade orchid *Liparis liliifolia*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Liliopsida

Order: Orchidales

Family: Orchidaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The twayblade orchid has two, broad basal leaves, each of which is three to six inches long. Its flowers develop on the upper part of the stalk. The flowers are mauve-colored with a broad central lip and two very thin side petals. The sepals are green. This plant grows to a height of four to 10 inches.

BEHAVIORS

Rich, upland woods, savannas, cliffs, thickets, old fields and pine forests, if not too dense, are the habitats for this species. It cannot survive in very shaded areas. Flowering occurs from May through July. The fruits are capsules containing seeds. The twayblade orchid and its seeds need a specific strain of *Rhizoctonia/Tulasnella* fungus in order to survive.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2020. Biodiversity of Illinois.