

Broadleaf helleborine

Epipactis helleborine

Description

First discovered in New York in 1879. It was a very popular plant with garden clubs, etc.

Habit

Erect, perennial, 1-3 ft. tall forb; several stems appear and are covered with a sparse woolly hair.

Leaves

Many (3-30), alternate, clasping, oval to lance-like, 3-15 cm long and 1.5-6(~7) cm wide.

Stems

1-3 ft tall including flowering spike, simple, erect, herbaceous, tomentose with some arachnoid pubescence above, from thin rhizomes and fibrous roots. Hairs branched, translucent, clavate or crinkled.

Flowers

6-parted, 3/4-1 in. wide, lip is green-purple, petals and sepals dull green with purple veins, 4-12 in.





one-sided raceme, bracts below flowers are longer than the petals, flowers are nodding; blooms late June through August.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruit are capsule that are egg-shaped to ellipsoid, green with brownish lines, up to 0.6 in. (1.5 cm) long, and generally hairy.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Found in deciduous forests, roadsides; in limy soil and shaded woodland environments.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Resembles native lilies such as Virginia bunchflower (*Veratrum virginicum*), Appalachian bunchflower (*Veratrum parviflorum*) and Green false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling is effective, chemical treatment is not needed.

Credits

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