

Manitoba Native Orchids Compendium

Dragon's-Mouth (*Arethusa Bulbosa* Linnaeus)



The name for this Genus was appropriately chosen. Arethusa of Greek mythology was a wood nymph who was changed into a fountain to hide from the river God Alpheus who had proclaimed his love for her. The single species in this Genus is partial to wet habitats.

A small but showy orchid, this species frequents open black spruce and tamarack sphagnum bogs. Most often found on hummocks of sphagnum moss, companion plants frequently are Labrador Tea and Pitcher plants. Expect to find the Dragon's Mouth in bloom from mid-June to early July.

The range of *Arethusa bulbosa* in Manitoba extends from the south-east, north to include the south basin of Lake Winnipeg and across to the Saskatchewan border in the Swan River area. Most frequently it is found singly, however in appropriate habitat it may be found in small colonies of five or six plants.