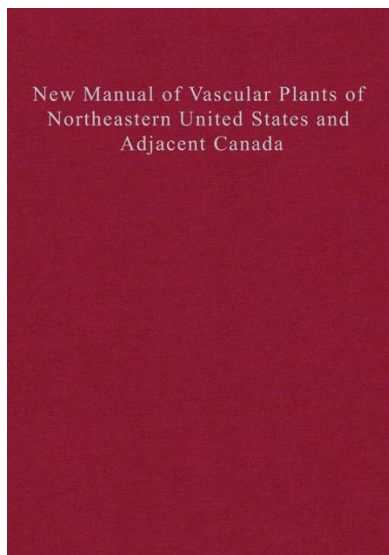


# NYBG

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## Continuing a Monumental, Multi-Year Project, the Third Installment of Treatments in *New Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* Is Available from NYBG Press

Updating the 1991 Gleason and Cronquist *Manual*, New Scientific Treatments Can Be Downloaded in PDF Format for Orchids, Geraniums, Honeysuckles, Birches, and More



Orange-fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), included in the *New Manual* treatment of orchids  
Photo by Robert F. C. Naczi, Ph.D.

**Bronx, NY**—With their exotic flowers and lush foliage, orchids are often considered the quintessential tropical plant, but as a recent publication from NYBG Press demonstrates, they are also native to the northeastern United States. Orchids (or Orchidaceae, their scientific name) are among the 27 plant families that are now available in the third installment of treatments released as part of the ***New Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*** by Robert F. C. Naczi, Ph.D., and Collaborators. The family treatments have been published as individual, downloadable PDFs that can be viewed on a variety of devices such as a desktop computer, tablet, or smartphone.

In the region covered by the *New Manual*, there are 84 species of orchids, according to the treatment by Matthew C. Pace, Ph.D., Assistant Curator of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium at The New York Botanical Garden, and John V. Freudenstein, Ph.D., Professor of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University.

Unlike their tropical cousins, orchids of the northeastern United States and neighboring Canadian provinces tend to have smaller flowers and are more likely to grow on the ground rather than on other plants such as trees (in other words, they are terrestrial instead of epiphytic). Because of habitat loss, poaching, and high levels of grazing by deer, populations of many native orchids have declined, and most species are of conservation concern.

Other well-known or important plant families in the third installment include geraniums (Geraniaceae), honeysuckles (Caprifoliaceae), birch trees (Betulaceae), the cashew or poison-ivy family (Anacardiaceae), the remainder of the plantain family (Plantaginaceae, the first portion of which was released in 2017), and water lilies (Nymphaeaceae).

The third installment of the *New Manual* is part of a multi-year project that began to be published in 2016 to fully revise and update *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* by Botanical Garden scientists Henry A. Gleason and Arthur J. Cronquist, the most recent edition of which NYBG Press published in 1991. Often called simply “Gleason and Cronquist,” the *Manual* is widely considered the foremost guide to the plants of the region and an important resource for a wide variety of research and conservation projects. Like Gleason and Cronquist, the *New Manual* covers all or parts of 22 states in the northeastern quadrant of the United States and five provinces in eastern Canada.

Incorporating the latest advances in using a species’ DNA to help determine its relationship to other species, *New Manual* treatments allow scientists, land-use officials, conservationists, students, nature-enthusiasts, gardeners, and others to identify any of the vascular plants—plants with tissues for conducting water and nutrients—that grow on their own in the region. In addition to providing such traditional floristic information as identifying characteristics, classification, geographic range, and habitat for every species, *New Manual* treatments also include etymologies of species names, the conservation status of native species, and the invasiveness of non-native plants, data not found in previous versions of the *Manual*.

This ambitious undertaking, involving many collaborators who are leading specialists in their fields, comes at a time of unprecedented change in the region’s plant life, including increases in non-native species and declines in many native plants. Identifying plants accurately, understanding their places in northeastern ecosystems, and determining their conservation status are indispensable to protecting vulnerable plant species and preserving biodiversity.

*New Manual* treatments have been distinguished by being on the cutting edge of incorporating new knowledge and making that information available to the public. “Our offerings this year are especially diverse, including carnivorous plants, plants that are important and popular in horticulture, and plants that are medicinally important,” Dr. Naczi said. “Every one of these families has interesting or little-known species that deserve to be recognized and valued for the role they play in the region’s ecosystems.”

With the 2018 installment, *New Manual* treatments are now available online for about 40 percent of the roughly 230 plant families found in the region. When all of them have been updated, the contents will also be published as a hardcover book.

### **About the Principal Author of the *New Manual***

Robert F. C. Naczi, Ph.D., is the Arthur J. Cronquist Curator of North American Botany at The New York Botanical Garden. His research focuses on the flora of the eastern United States, sedges (Cyperaceae), and Western Hemisphere pitcher plants (Sarraceniaceae). His fieldwork has given him first-hand knowledge of the flora of much of North America.

### **Praise for the *New Manual***

“The descriptions are concise yet elaborate enough to get a clear understanding of the species. Clearly the parts of the *New Manual* that are being released are a must-have for all those interested in the flora of our region.”

—David Werier, Recent Past-President, New York Flora Association

### **About NYBG Press**

Since 1896 NYBG Press ([nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org)) has been publishing books and journals based on original research by scientists from around the world. The mission of NYBG Press is to put information in the hands of those engaged in exploring, understanding, and conserving plants and fungi. Areas of focus include floristics, systematics, economic botany, ecology, evolution, conservation, and ethnobotany. A growing list of books for general readers includes field guides and botanical history.

**Ordering Information:** *New Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* treatments are available as downloadable PDFs through NYBG Press. The 2018 treatments are available as a set for \$60. Price per family treatment ranges from \$2.99 to \$4.99. To order, go to [nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org) or call 718.817.8721.

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**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, the Botanical Garden is one of the world’s preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. Garden scientists conduct fundamental research on plants and fungi globally, as well as on the many relationships between plants and people. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden’s 250-acre site is one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world and the largest in any city in the United States, distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens, as well as by the scope and excellence of its programs in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Learn more: [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)**

**The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458**

**The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.**

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