

Overwintering *Spiranthes* “Irish Lady’s Tresses”

A species so rare in Summer, hardly ever seen in Winter. How does it survive in Lough Allen? Here are some insights...

Study of 4 specimens of *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* in south Lough Allen, Leitrim, Ireland, during the year from August 2013 - August 2014.

Technical: This page is created as an A3 pdf to facilitate downloading and printing. It also allows precise positioning and all images are fully scalable up to 4X. ie. these are good sized images pretending to be thumbnails! Just hit the Plus button on your browser or Adobe Acrobat and push the picture around to see more detail on individual photographs. This is done as it is so rare to find pictures of this plant surviving and growing through the Winter and it allows us to show many specimens over many months. There is also much debate as to when and how these plants emerge from the ground as they are often only first detected as they come into bloom. (Our specimens never disappeared even when flooded!) NOTE: All images are the same size but the specimens are not. We have done this to allow detailed viewing of the structures. If we were to show the plants on the left at real scale they would be almost invisible. An indication of the plant height is provided after the date.

Banksy: One of a group of three growing on a raised bank north of *Spiranthes* Islands on the east shore of Lough Allen near Derrintobber.



14 Sept 2013 (1.5cm)



1 Oct 2013 (2cm)



22 Oct 2013 (2cm)



4 Dec 2013 (2.5cm)



30 Mar 2014(4cm)



21 Apr 2014 (6cm)



16 May 2014 (9.5cm)



16 May2014 (*Bud 5mm*)

Centre: The central member of the Bank group of 3 that we are monitoring and protecting.



26 Aug 2013 *flower*



14 Sept 2013 (1.5cm)



1 Oct 2013 (2cm)



do. *dead seed head*



22 Oct 2013 (2.5cm)



4 Dec 2013 (3cm)



21 Apr 2014 (5cm)



16 May 2014 (9cm)

Rocky: On it’s own on the shore east of *Spiranthes* Islands. This is the lowest specimen and was flooded the longest.



23 Jul 2013 *flower*



14 Sept 2013 *plant*



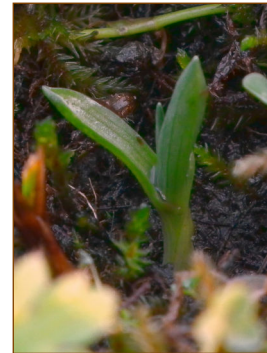
14Sept 2013 (1.5cm)



1 Oct 2013 (2cm)



22 Oct 2013 (2.5cm)



4 Dec 2013 (3cm)



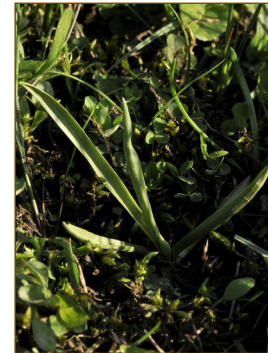
26 Dec 2013 *flooded*



30 Mar 2014 (3.5cm) *dry*



21 Apr 2014 (4cm)



16 May 2014 (8cm)

Twins: Occasionally *Spiranthes* will produce two buds off the stem of the previous seasons flower. Both of these can go on to flowering again.



3 Sept 2013 *flower*



14 Sept 2013 *plant*



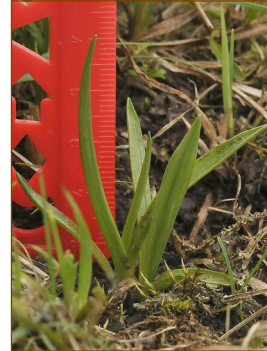
1 Oct 2013 (2cm)



22 Oct 2013 (2.5cm)



4 Dec 2013 (3cm)



28 Apr 2014 (5cm)



16 May 2014 (6cm & 4.5cm)

If you see this document in paper format could we encourage you to view it online also at www.LoughAllenBasin.com/SpirLifecycle.pdf. The images are numerous and small but online they can be viewed clearly at 4 times the size they are appear on paper. Good detail will then become evident.

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