Cypripediums are almost a mythological group of plants. Most people know of them, some people can tell you stories of where they use to see them as children on a family property, and even a few people grow them. Lady-Slipper Orchids are not the easiest plants to grow, yet they are awesome to find in the garden. Here at O’Brien’s we offer nursery propagated Lady-Slippers that have been raised at a friend’s nursery in Western Massachusetts. These plants are usually flowering age, so that means that they are around seven years old by the time they become available for sale.

Cypripedium pubescens

We have a number of different Cypripediums in our display gardens. The lady-slipper season starts in Mid-May with Cypripedium pubescens coming into bloom. This species, known as the Giant
Yellow Lady-Slipper, flowers for two weeks and as it begins to fade Cypripedium parviflorum takes over and blooms for the next two weeks into June.

Cypripedium parviflorum

Mid-May is the time of year that many of the hybrid Lady-Slippers start to bloom. Each year we carry a half dozen varieties of hybrid Cypripediums. These are exceptional plants that are a bit easier to
have success with. They are available in shades of lavender, burgundy, white and combinations of these colors. Here are a couple photos of hybrid lady-slippers from last spring.

Cypripedium x ‘Gisela’

Hybrid Mix of Cypripediums
Cypripedium kentuckiense is our favorite moccasin flower. We acquired the specimen in our garden during a silent auction, don’t want to admit what we paid for it. It is one of the most photographed plants in our garden when it is in flower. Blooming in the month of June, it is the last of our Lady-Slippers to bloom every year.