

## May 2012 Guess that Plant



The May 2012 *Guess that Plant* was ***Plantago aristida***, Bracted Plantain

May's *Guess that Plant* was the bracted plantain. This plant is a devil to key out because of a variety of flora and dimension variations. This plant is a true upland species, decreasing in moist soils and preferring open, dry sand or gravel. It is often seen in old lots, roadside or along rail road beds. A curious feature of the plant is its variable size. The plant may mature between 3" to 8" tall based on the availability of water. The flowering inflorescence is also variable, sometimes being quite short but having the capability of stretching to an inch or more.

*Plantago aristida* can be found throughout the Coastal Plain, Piedmont and into the Highlands wherever depauperate sandy and gravel conditions persist.

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