

2014 May *Guess that Plant*



Coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara* L.

The *May Guess That Plant* was non-native composite that flowers in early spring. Coltsfoot's flowers appear in late April and May prior to the presence of the leaves. The plant is formed from a creeping rootstock that will form large colonies. These colonies, when in flower, are quite striking with many petal yellow disk and ray flowers. The leaves burst in view as the flowers fade. They are covered with white wooly hairs as the leaf expand.

As with many herbs, this plant was used as a medicine prior to modern remedies. Fernald (1950) describes the genus name is derived from *tussis*, a cough. It was applied to this species because it was used as a treatment for coughing.

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