

2014 August *Guess that Plant*



Hordeum pusillum Nutt., Little Barley

The August *Guess That Plant* was *Hordeum pusillum*, the little barley. This grass is a relatively new species to the State. It is first known during the modern era from Salem County. The population has since spread to many other New Jersey counties. Personal observations place it in Salem, Cumberland, Gloucester, Camden and Burlington counties. Mary Hough (1983) cites an old record from Cape May and the USDA Plants Database identifies Somerset and Warren counties. It is clear this plant is now here to stay. It is a southern grass preferring dry open sand and gravels. Most specimens I have seen are in disturbed old fields, abandoned farm fields or industrial sites. If you are a grass aficionado now is the time to seek out disturbed dry areas for this new comer to the Flora of New Jersey.

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