

2015 October *Guess that Plant*



Penthorum sedoides L., Ditch Stone Crop

The October *Guess that Plant* was a native herb common on rich soils of New Jersey's northern counties and Coastal Plain. The plant is absent in the Pine Barrens and sandier portions of the Outer Coastal Plain. The plant is a member of the stonecrop family, Crassulaceae. Ditch stonecrop is always in association with open water, streams or ditch banks. The plant has an OBL wetland designation in light of its dependence on hydric soil. Flowering occurs mid-Summer, resulting in the reddened seed capsules by late fall. This bright red color many times draws the attention of inquisitive naturalists. Early Native Americans used the plant seeds to make a cough syrup as well as using the leaves as a potherb (Moerman, 1999; *North American Ethnobotany*).

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