

2017 September *Guess that Plant*



Froelichia gracilis (Hook) Moq., Cottonweed

The September *Guess that Plant* was *Froelichia gracilis*. This is a relatively new species in the State that is native to dry, open North American habitats south and west of New Jersey. This species was once considered infrequent on the Coastal Plain (Hough, 1983), but today is a common member of the dry roadside flora. It is often overlooked because of its curious flowering shape, and its ability to blend into the surrounding tall grasses. The plant is a member of the Amaranthaceae or the Amaranth family which includes other common New Jersey genera *Amaranthus* and *Acnida*. Cottonweed flowers through the fall and should be present in many of our Southern New Jersey disturbed road sides and open habitats.

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