

2011 February's Plant of the Month



Wild Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra eximia* (Ker Gawl.) Torr.

February is normally a cold and wet month in New Jersey, yet the celebration of Valentine's Day warms many of our hearts. In honor of the lovers among us, Wild Bleeding Heart has been selected to present nature's display of passion. The photo presented is from a Pennsylvania population found in Palmerton on the top of the Blue Ridge. Similar settings in New Jersey may still provide habitat to the very special New Jersey plant.

Bleeding Heart is a member of the Papaveraceae , the Poppy Family.

Wild Bleeding Heart is an endangered species in New Jersey (NJ DEP Natural Heritage Program). The plant has a SH.1 designation, indicating a historic distribution. Hough (1983) indicates sight records in the 1980's for Warren County and older records for Bergen and Essex Counties. USDA Database uses the common name "Turkey Corn" for this beautiful species.