

June's Plant of the Month:



Two Flowered Cynthia, *Krigia biflora* (Walt.) Blake

It is difficult to decide on which plant to pick as a representative of New Jersey in June. So many plants are now in bloom. Any one of our native and naturalized species would be a good choice to represent the State's June flora. In order to highlight the variety of species now in flower, we have selected **Two Flowered Cynthia, *Krigia biflora* (Walt.) Blake** as June's **Plant of the Month**.

Our selection centers on a native showy herb found on moist soil in open woodlands and meadows. This is a native species of the Daisy Family that is found throughout the State outside of the Pine Barrens. Mary Hough (1983) cites a frequent status with representative populations and herbarium specimens collected in all counties sans Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem. Personal observations by the Flora of New Jersey personnel reports Two Flowered Cynthia is also in the counties excluded by Mary Hough.

This plant is identified by stem height, flower color and type of stem leaves. This weak herb sprouts from a basal rosette of oblong to oval leaves. The forked stem will grow up to approximately 30" (70 cm) but most specimens are 12-18" tall (45 cm). The flowers are borne few to a stem. Its bright yellow-orange ray flowers are produced two to three per stem, and this is where its name was derived. It has smooth clasping and oft times glaucous, cauline leaves. The leaves are often toothed and may be pinnatifid (highly cut). The stem is weak and produced from fibrous rootstocks. Similar species includes Potato Dandelion, *Krigia Dandelion* (L.) Nutt.. This look alike is limited to southern Cape May County.

As you walk the State's paths and back roads, keep your eye out for this beautiful flower, its only around for a few weeks. The photo (right) shows its color and form, yet nothing takes the place of seeing Two Flowered Cynthia in its natural habitats. It is a sight to be seen.

Do not miss the opportunity to see this daisy in the wild. It will be gone by the end of the month.

