

October 2012 *Guess that Plant*



***Cyperus pseudovegetus* Steud.** Marsh Flat Sedge

The October *Guess that Plant* was one of New Jersey's rarest sedges. The marsh flat sedge is listed by the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program as historic, but it actually has a colony composed of a few plants in the vicinity of the village of Alloway. Like many flat sedges, these plants are always on the move. As Ted Gordon says, if you find a new species in the state it is likely to be a flat sedge.

The marsh flat sedge is a southern species reaching its northern limits in New Jersey. According to our State botanist, David Snyder, it was first discovered near the railroad crossing called Riddleton, an area only a short distance from the extant population. It was subsequently found in Mayetta-Manahawkin. Mary Hough places current sightings in Burlington and Cumberland counties.

The plant is identified by its dense clustered of spikelets, creating dense "balls" unlike any other *Cyperus*. The plant prefers open wet soils. Based on the most recent finds it appears to be dependent of recent disturbance to produce the soil and hydrological conditions suitable for germination. So if you are out near recently disturbed soil and notice some unusual sedges, don't be surprised, it may be the species featured in October's *Guess that Plant*.