

## July 2013 Plant of the Month



### Clammy Ground Cherry

*Physalis heterophylla* Nees.

July's Plant of the Month is a native herbaceous dicot that is a member of the Potato family, the Solanaceae. Clammy ground-cherry is found throughout the State wherever disturbed uplands provide the sunny dry conditions preferred by this species. Clammy ground-cherry is identified by its hairy, sticky leaves and purple centered yellow flowers. This plant produces variable shaped leaves that is the basis for its specific name. By mid-summer small yellow berries are produced that are food for berry eating birds.

The species is common but never a dominant plant. The large seeds and uneven seed dispersal provides the ability to be in most upland open habitats yet represented by a few individuals. There are a few states that consider the plant a noxious weed. Here in New Jersey it does not have that designation.

JRA, 7/13