

June 2013 Guess that Plant



The June 2013 *Guess that Plant* was two species:

Sweet Vernal Grass, *Anthoxanthum odoratum* L

and

Hairy Vetch, *Vicia villosa* Roth

The June Guess that Plant was a set of common hayfield plants that often grow together. Sweet vernal grass is a common spring maturing non-native grass that is widespread and found in many mesic habitats, from open woodlands to old fields. It is a well know forage species and is a component to many bales of hay eaten by horses and cows. It was established early in the colonization of the State and is now a well establish species. Sweet vernal grass can be found in every county and is often a major constituent of open habitats.

Hairy vetch is also a naturalized species intertwined with other forage crop species in hay fields, dry roadsides and other rich open habitats. IT too became established early in New Jersey's farming culture. It is often confused with *Vicia craccia*, yet the villose hairiness of the stem and leaf stalks should be an easy identifying clue. It is in bloom throughout the State right now and should be identifiable wherever open un-mowed habitats exist.

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