

## October's *Guess that Plant*



*Samolus verlandi*

Marsh Pimpernel

The October Guess That Plant was a native herb from the Primrose Family that is common to New Jersey's fresh and brackish marshes. Mary Hough's *Plant's of NJ* (1983) indicates specimens show it is found State-wide yet is most common on the open, wetland fringes of the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Coastal marshes.

Marsh pimpernel is usually mixed with *Sabatia stellaris*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *Spartina patens* and other upper brackish marsh species. The plant is a perennial that occupies marsh edges that provide sufficient light and space. Along the coast, it occupies the upper edge of the tidal marshes where flood waters rarely reach yet influence the hydrology and soil chemistry of the weakly saline estuarine water. Former names include *Samolus floribundus* and *Samolus parviflorus*. These are now combined into the species described as *S. verlandi*.

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