

## November's *Guess that Plant*



*Cyperus strigosus*

### Straw Colored Umbrella Sedge

The November *Guess That Plant* is a native wetland sedge common to open wet farm fields, marshes and road side ditches. The straw colored umbrella sedge is found in all counties but less so in the center Pine Barrens where Hough (1983) describes it as intrusive.

This umbrella sedge is one of our largest and most prevalent within the genus *Cyperus*. Its straw colored spikelets clustered on long peduncles are one of the first clues to its identity. The individual spikelets have long, golden, acute scales with a green mid rib (Fernald, 1950). Second, it is a perennial from a single corm-like base. Unlike Yellow Nut Grass (*C. esculentus*) this species does not produce rhizomes. Similar perennial species are *Cyperus lacastriensis* (S1) and *C. retrofratus* (s1), both of which are very rare species in uplands or found higher along local wetland gradients than our species of the month.

JRA 12.2013