

2015 May *Guess that Plant*



Viola sagittata var. *ovata* (Nutt.) Torr. & Gray, Ovate Leaf Violet

The May *Guess that Plant* is native violet that is frequent in dry woodlands throughout the State. Distinguishing features that would help the identification include the pubescent flowering stem, diminutive ovate, pubescent leaves, and the upland habitat verified by the two *Potentilla canadensis* leaves present in the lower right corner of the photo. The dwarf cinquefoil grows exclusively on non-hydric sediments as is our *Guess that Plant* species for May.

The species exist throughout the State in dry to moist open fields and roadsides. Mary Hough (1983) shows the plant in all counties with the exception of Burlington, Salem and Cumberland. I can personally attest the species grows in all three counties, making this violet species truly a statewide native spring herb.

JRA 5/2015