

## 2016 September *Guess that Plant*



*Narthecium americanum* Ker. Gawl., Yellow or Bog Asphodel

The September *Guess that Plant* was one of New Jersey's rare plants, bog asphodel. The monthly photo shows the seed capsules for *Narthecium americanum*. This plant's New Jersey distribution is limited to three counties: Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean. The species is listed as one of the original 54 listed plants in the Pinelands Commission Comprehensive Management Plan, and receives a S2 designation by the New Jersey Office of Natural Lands Management. Although this plant is globally rare, it is considered a stable population because most plants exist on State or federal properties.

Bog asphodel is restricted to wet savanna's and bog habitats with very low nutrients, typical of the Pine Barrens river systems. The plant blooms in July and fruits by late summer. It grows with a suite of plants restricted in New Jersey to this low nutrient, acidic environment, including species such as *Juncus canadensis*, *Rhynchospora gracilentata*, *Cladium mariscoides* and *Muhlenbergia uniflora*. This plant can be seen on open river side habitats in the Oswego, Wading, Batsto and Mullica River systems.

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