

2017 April *Guess that Plant*



Toxicodendron radicans (L.) Kuntze, Eastern or Common Poison Ivy

The April *Guess that Plant* was *Toxicodendron radicans*, poison ivy. The winter photos provided for the guess shows an upright stem, with clasping buds and last season's white berries. New Jersey's flora has no other plant that is remotely similar to this set of plant characteristics. Poison ivy is one of the few plants that assume three different growth habits: a vine, a shrub and a groundcover. This photo shows the plant in its "shrub" form. This habit is often seen on tidal edges that force the plant to assume the upright habit. Knowing the plant retains its notorious poison at all times of the year, it is in everyone best interest to know this plant at every stage of its life cycle.

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