

2017 May *Guess that Plant*



Vicia hirsuta (L.) S.F. Gray., Tiny Vetch

The May *Guess that Plant* was *Vicia hirsuta*. This plant is a member of the pea family, Fabaceae. It is a trailing non-native herb with its origins in northern Eurasia. The plant is established as a weed in New Jersey's flora. Our plants occur on dry roadsides, farm field edges, pastures and weedy lots. It is distinguished from other *Vicia* species by the panicles of small, pale lavender flowers. One other vetch in our flora has flowers as small as *V. hirsuta*, *V. tetrasperma*. Our species, however, has its flowers displayed in clusters of three to six, whereas *Vicia tetrasperma* produces flower clusters of two (Fernald, 1950).

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