

2018 May *Guess that Plant*



Hudsonia ericoides L. Pine Barren Golden-heather

The May *Guess that Plant* was a photo of a Pleistocene Epoch relic we know as Pine Barren golden-heather. Distinguished by the low stature and weak woody stems, this Rock Rose family plant, Cistaceae, is found on loose, quartz upland sands of the Pine Barrens or habitats with similar xeric unconsolidated soils. It is found along the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland south to the Carolina's. The species is a northern migrant that was found on New Jersey's exposed coastal plain during the Wisconsin Glacial Epoch. Today's populations are relic, and are found on the exposed Cohansey sands. The plants were either already here and represent the remnants of the former expanded population, or they represent a western migration that started during the last glacial maximum about 20,000 years ago.

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