

## 2019 October *Guess that Plant*



*Pilea pumila* (L.) A. Gray; Clearweed

The October *Guess that Plant* was a one of a New Jersey wetland herbs known as Clearweed, *Pilea pumila*. Clearweed is member of the Urticaceae, the nettle family. This plant is found Statewide outside of the Pine Barrens, and often is a reflection of a nutrient enriched environment.

New Jersey is home to two members of the genus, *Pilea pumila* and *Pilea fontana*. The name clearweed is associated with the translucent leaves found on our October Guess that Plant. *Pilea fontana* leaves are less translucent, and the seeds (called achenes) are dark purple. Clearweed has green seeds. This plant is visible along most of New Jersey's major streams and floodplains, and is often found on the periphery of farm fields.

JRA 10/2019