

2019 November *Guess that Plant*



Boehmeria cylindrica (L.) Sw., False Nettle, Bog Hemp

The November *Guess that Plant* was a one of a New Jersey perennial herbs known as false nettle, *Boehmeria cylindrica*. Like the October *Guess that Plant*, false nettle is member of the Urticaceae, the nettle family. This plant is found Statewide outside of the Pine Barrens.

Boehmeria cylindrica is the only native member of the genus in Eastern North America. USDA Plants Database maps the plant across most of the Continent from Quebec to California. False nettle is a plant requiring freshwater wetlands, and it is a common plant under our deciduous palustrine forests. False nettle is often confused with true stinging nettle, hence the name false nettle. The plant differs from stinging nettle having small cylindrical flower stalks, and not having stiff stinging bristles. This plant is visible throughout the State on floodplains, along major streams and is often one of the most obvious wetland herbs at or near the regulatory wetland boundary. It can be seen year round, and winter skeletons are remarkably resilient, often lasting until the following spring.

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