

2021 July *Guess that Plant*



Elaeagnus umbellata Thunberg; Autumn Olive

The July *Guess that Plant* is an old familiar shrub for those botanizing disturbed habitats throughout the state. Autumn olive is a non-native member of the Elaeagnaceae, the Oleaster Family. The species was introduced in the mid-nineteenth century to re-vegetate degraded land, and has since spread to most available habitats throughout the continent. Today, autumn olive occupies dry to moist disturbed land in all New Jersey counties. The shrub is considered an introduced nuisance, and planting this species is discouraged. The photo used for this month's selection is of a large population creating a dense hedgerow in western Gloucester County.

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