

## 2022 April *Guess that Plant*



*Luzula multiflora* (Retz) Lejeune, Common Wood Rush

April's *Guess that Plant* is a native member of the Juncaceae, the Rush family. Wood rush is a native monocot that is widely distributed in New Jersey outside of the Pine Barrens. It is found in rich woodlands and infrequently mowed pastures where the soil is never saturated. Wood rush flowers in the spring, whereas the members of the genus *Juncus* flower and fruit later in the growing season.

New Jersey is home to at least four species of wood rush (*Luzula acuminata*, *bulbosa*, *multiflora*, and *echinata*). *Luzula multiflora* once was included in *Luzula campestris*, but recent taxonomic study found it differs from that species by the inflorescence branching and rooting. Our *Guess that plant* is differentiated from the other species by its flowering and rooting habit. Our plant has clustered flowers on cespitose culms with fine fibrous roots.

The Common Wood Rush will be visible through the end of the summer, but its flowering and best display occur April through May.

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