

2023 January *Guess that Plant*



Spirodela polyrhiza (L.) Schleid., Greater Duckweed

The January *Guess that Plant* is one of New Jersey's free floating aquatic flowering plants. Greater duckweed is found in slow, nutrient-enriched water and is found State-wide with the exception of the central Pine Barrens. This is found in quiet waters such as slow streams, ponds, and lake edges. The floating leaf is similar to the common duckweed, *Lemna minor*, but the Plant of the Month has multiple roots extending from the floating leaf where *Lemna minor* has only one. Intermixed with this month's plant is *Wolffiella gladiata*. This interesting floating leaf species is interwoven with *Spirodela's* roots in both photos.

There are few references to the ancient uses of this and similar species. Moerman (1998) described Iroquois tribes using the north *Lemna trisulca* as a wet poultice. The members of the *Lemna* and *Spirodela* genera are visible throughout the growing season on open nutrient enriched water.

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