November 2026 Plant of the Month

Dichanthelium clandestinum (L.) Gould; Deer tongue

The November *Plant of the Month* is a common grass found throughout the state: Deer tongue. This species is a member of the genus *Dichanthelium*, formerly a tribe within the genus *Panicum*. Hough (1983) chronicled our *Plant of the Month* as a statewide species, found in every county across many ecological habitats. It is less frequent or absent in the central Pine Barrens, present around home sites and enriched soils.

New Jersey is host to 36 or 37 *Dichanthelium* species depending on the current nomenclature. Our monthly species is differentiated from most members of the genus by it size, often growing to 1 meter of more, with broad "tongue-like" leaves that are characteristic for the species. This plant is found on moist to dry soils on road sides, meadows, and old fields.

Moerman (1998) does not specifically list our monthly species yet similar species had use for medicine and food. Our monthly species is one of the more common grasses in New Jersey and can be found in full flower in June and in seed by the end of August.

JRA,11/2026