



Endemic



Here's a word which crops up occasionally in a field guide's description of a plant: endemic. It means "peculiar to a specific geographic area or edaphic type." Okay, I get the first part of the definition, but what's "edaphic?" According to [Plant Identification Terminology](#) (by James G. and Melinda Woolf Harris), edaphic is "due to, or pertaining to, the soil."

So when a plant is described as "endemic to" a particular area, that means it only grows in that region of the world or it only grows on that particular type of soil. I recently visited the Roan Mountain area of the Appalachians where Gray's lily (*Lilium grayi*) grows. It is endemic to the high mountains of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee -- within high meadows and balds.

Comparing Leaves



There are two plants which are in leaf at the same time in woods areas and which could easily be mis-identified as each other. They each have three leaves or leaflets with a similar shape. Unless they are in bloom, they could be difficult to tell apart. Here's a [blog post which explains the key difference between the two plants](#) so that you can easily identify either of them when you find them as you meander through the woods.

Mystery Plant Confirmed



Josh Fecteau correctly identified [Mystery Plant 074](#) as False nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*). This plant has a ball-type inflorescence and does not sting like “true” nettles.

Mystery Plant

What is the name of this plant? ([There are more images on the website.](#))





When you can identify this plant, provide your response at IdentifyThatPlant.com as a comment for the blog entry called [Mystery Plant 075](#). Please identify the plant by both its common name and its scientific name. The answer will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Confidently master the skill of correct plant identification

This message was sent to angelyn@identifythatplant.com from:

Angelyn | angelyn@identifythatplant.com | Angelyn Whitmeyer | c/o Angelyn Whitmeyer PO Box 574 |
Leicester, NC 28748

Email Marketing by



[Manage Your Subscription](#)