



## *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.

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## *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.

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## *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.

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## *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](http://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.

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*Confidently master the skill of correct plant identification*

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