



Do you know what Plant this is?

Do you know where it grows at Hammonasset Beach State Park?

The roots of this plant may have been eaten by our native Americans. The leaves emerge in early May, with a bronze green color, very similar to poison ivy, so one needs to be able to identify both plants. They can grow right next to each other, in the light shade of early spring.



It has a round cluster of greenish white flowers, so they may not catch your attention. The plant is a spring ephemeral (grows in early spring and becomes dormant in summer). The plant only grows to about 15 inches tall and has a single leaf which is divided into three compound leaflets, Hence the similarity to poison ivy. The roots are aromatic and were used in flavoring a beverage. (*Aralia nudicaulis*)