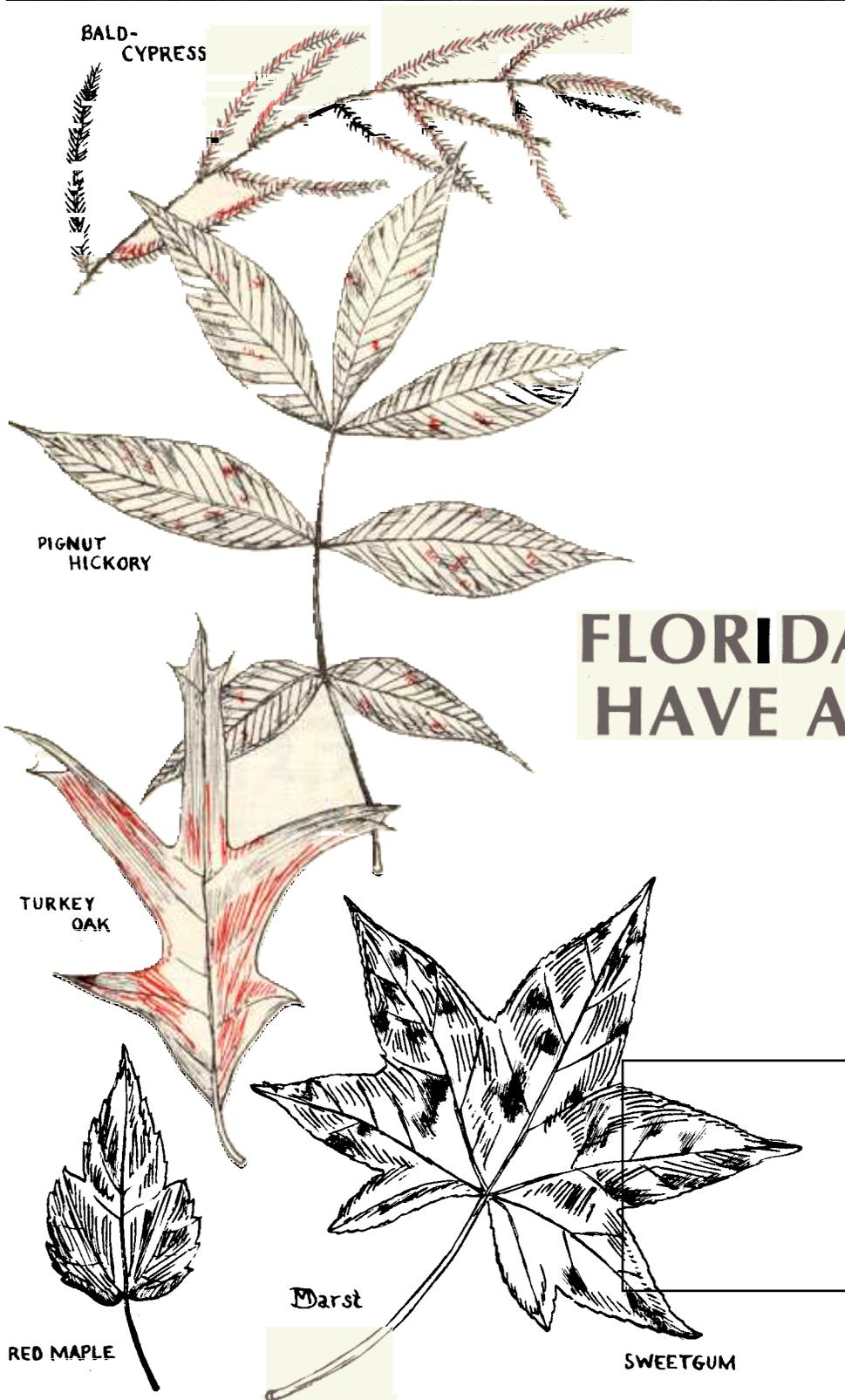


by Allen B. Burdett, Jr.



FLORIDA DOES TOO HAVE AN AUTUMN!

Some even lose their leaves to provide you with those nostalgic leaf-raking chores. Many of Florida's trees lose and replace their leaves within a period of only days or weeks, such as the laurel oak, red maple, and live oaks. Other trees such as the persimmon and swamp tupelo may remain leafless for several months, beginning as early as September or October, while many native oaks shed and replace their leaves in late winter or early spring without anyone taking much notice. The time between complete leaf fall and budding out varies from four to ten weeks for many central Florida species. A few trees like the turkey oak and the southern sugar maple (Florida maple) will retain many of their dried brown leaves throughout the dormant period. Many may not completely shed all leaves until the last week in December or the first week in January.

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