

# SOME NATIVE TREES

## every Floridian should know

by **A.S. (Tony) Jensen**  
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Florida has about 3,000 native plants. Some 300 of these are native trees. Nearly 100 of this 300 tree species are tropical or semi-tropical that are found only in the hardwood hammocks, everglade tree islands or along the coast or Keys of extreme south Florida. Few people except trained botanists seeking these specimens have ever seen them or known the names of the trees they are looking at in passing.

Note that a number of common introduced or naturalized tree species that are spreading throughout south Florida and rapidly changing the face of the countryside are not included on this list: examples of these exotics — Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine, and Eucalyptus. Native vegetation of the cities and developments of south Florida has long since been overwhelmed by exotic ornamentals. Exotics are often scarce around cities and towns.

Many of the trees on this list may be seen while riding the roads or boating on the streams of Florida north of Lake Okeechobee. But seeing them and identifying them are different matters. Good references and illustrated books on Florida native trees are not easy to obtain. The following references are available from the various publishers unless it is noted they are out of print. Local libraries usually have a poor to excellent section on Florida tree identification also.

Remember, however, there is no book or picture that is as good as actually learning to know the tree in the field!

Herman Kurz and Robert K. Godfrey. 1962. *Trees of Northern Florida*. Univ. Fla. Press, Gainesville. 311p. ILL.

Erdman West and Lillian Arnold. 1956. *The Native Trees of Florida*. Univ. Fla. Press, Gainesville. 218p. ILL (Out-of-Print.)

Division of Forestry. 1977. *Forest Trees of Florida*. 97p. ILL. Free from Division of Forestry.

Elbert L. Little, Jr. 1974. *Checklist of United States Trees (Native and Naturalized)*. Ag. Handbook 541, USDA Forest Service. 375p. Order from Superintendent of Documents Gov't Printing Office.

Elbert L. Little, Jr. 1978. *Atlas of United States Trees Volume 5 Florida*. Misc. Pub. 1361. 254p. Range maps of Florida species. Order from Gov't Printing Office.

ASH, CAROLINA or POP-ASH (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) Swamps and low hammocks

BALD CYPRESS and POND CYPRESS (*Taxodium distichum* and *T. Distichum* var. *nutans*) Swamps, ponds, river and stream banks

BUTTONBUSH (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) Ponds and swamps

CABBAGE PALM (*Sabal palmetto*) Coastal zones, hammocks — planted everywhere

DAHOON HOLLY (*Ilex cassine*) Swamps and low hammocks

ELDERBERRY (*Sambucus simpsonii*) Moist areas and ditch banks

ELM, FLORIDA (*Ulmus americana* var. *Floridiana*) Wet hammocks and stream margins

HICKORY, PIGNUT (*Carya glabra*) Hammocks

HICKORY, WATER (*Carya aquatica*) Wet ground and swamps

LOBLOLLY BAY (*Gordonia lasianthus*) Swamps, ditches, bayheads

MULBERRY, RED (*Morus rubra*) Low hammocks

OAK, LAUREL (*Quercus lauri folia*) Moist soils

OAK, LIVE (*Q. virginiana*) Hammocks and lake margins

OAK, MYRTLE (*Q. myrtifolia*) Coastal dunes and scrubs

OAK, TURKEY (*Q. laevis*) Sandy oak ridges

OAK, WATER (*Q. nigra*) Hammocks

OAK, UPLANDWILLOW (Bluejack — *Q. incana*) Sandy oak ridges

PERSIMMON (*Diospyros virginiana*) Old fields — fence rows

PINE, LOBLOLLY (*Pinus taeda*) Old field pine

PINE, LONGLEAF (*P. palustris*) Flatwoods and high pineland

PINE, SAND (*P. clausa*) Coastal dunes inland sand pine scrubs

PINE SLASH (*P. elliottii*, in S. Fla. var. *densa*) Pine of piney woods and plantation, etc.

RED CEDAR (*Juniperus silicicola*) Limestone soil areas

SWEET GUM (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) Hammocks, wood margins

RED MAPLE (*Acer rubrum*) Wet areas and swamps

RED BAY (*Persea borbonia*) Hammocks — swamp bay is in the wet places

SALTBUSH (*Eastern baccharis*, *B. halimifolia*) Many places

SWAMP BLACKGUM (*Nyssa biflora*) Swamps and shallow lake margins

SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA (*Magnolia virginiana*) Hammocks, front yards

SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA (*Magnolia virginiana*) Bayheads and swamps

SHINING SUMAC (*Rhus copallina*) Dry soils, old fields

WAX MYRTLE (*Myrica cerifera*) Fields, woods, low hammocks

WILLOW (*Salix caroliniana*) Wet areas — roadsides, ditches

SUGARBERRY (*Celtis laevigata*) Damp woods, stream banks, roadsides state-wide

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(Editor's note: Tony solicits your corrections or additions to this list. He would also like to see a county-by-county list of the more common trees. Can you help? Send to A.S. Jensen, 118 Newins-Ziegler Hall, U. of F., Gainesville, 32611.)

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