

Oak Trees



Live Oak

These trees are an icon of the south with their twisting branches draped with Spanish moss.

Identify this oak tree with its slender, round tip leaves. The leaves often curl up into a cup shape.

Remember that Live Oaks have life boat leaves!



Water Oak

Water oaks thrive in wet, swampy areas, although they typically live less than 50 years.

Identify these leaves by their spatula shape, they are narrow at the base and wide at the tip.

If you turn this leaf upside down, it vaguely resembles a water drop!



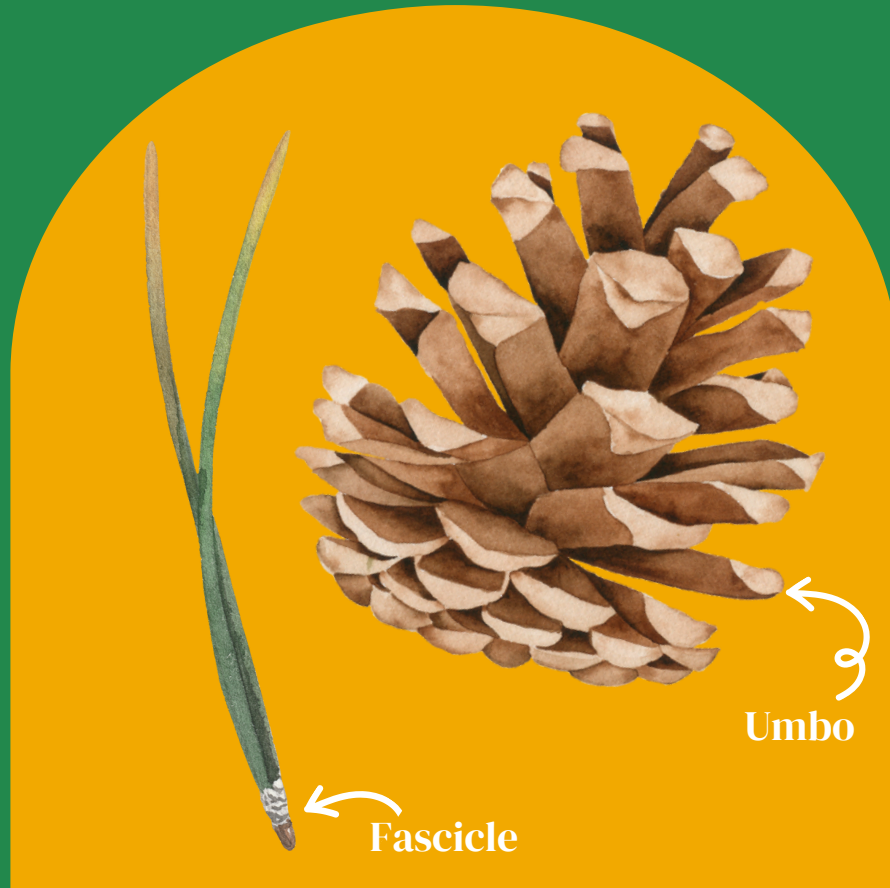
Turkey Oak

Turkey oaks grow in dry, sandy areas throughout the southeast. These are a relatively short oak, typically only 15-30 feet tall.

Identify this oak tree by its deeply lobed leaves that turn red in the fall.

The leaves of a Turkey Oak resembles the foot of a turkey!

Pine Trees



Longleaf

Longleaf pines thrive in areas that have frequent, low intensity fires.

Identify these pines by their long needles, 8-12+ inches, which appear in groups of 3 per fascicle. Twigs are thick, about the size of your thumb and the seed cones are large. Cones range from 6-10 inches in length. The umbo has a small prickle which bends down toward the base of the cone.



Slash

It takes 30 years for slash pine to reach sawtimber size to create board lumber.

Slash pines have needles than can be anywhere from 4 to 10 inches long. The needles appear in groups of 2 or 3 per fascicle. Twigs are rough and crowded with needles at the end creating a "broom". Seed cones are 2.75 to 6 inches long and glossy, caramel brown colored. The umbo has a soft prickle on the end.

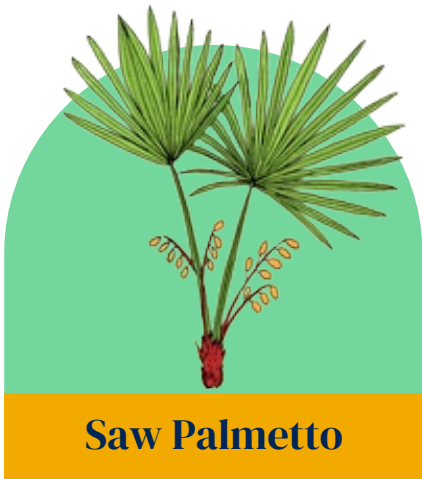


Loblolly

Loblolly pines are often called the "old field pine" because it often invades abandoned agricultural fields.

Identify Loblolly pines by their 5-6 inch long needles which appear in groups of 3 per fascicle. The dull brown seed cones are 2.5 to 4 inches long and persist on the tree for a long time in groups of 2 or 3. Each umbo of the cone has a stout, sharp prickle.

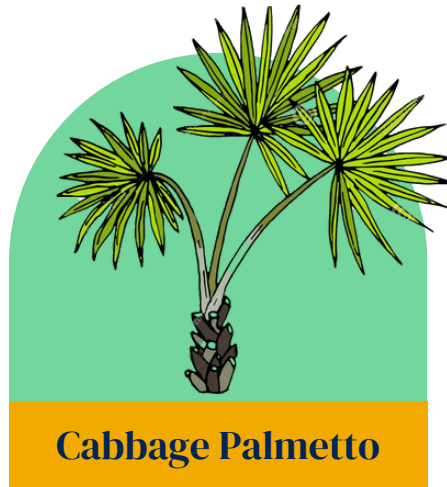
Florida's Palmettos



Saw Palmetto

Saw palmettos are the only *Serenoa* species of palms found in Florida, other species come from the *Sabal* genus.

The leaf stem has sharp, serrated edges, giving the plant its name as it will easily cut you. The saw palmetto frond does not have a costa, all of the leaves originate from a blunt point. Also, the leaves are often yellow-green.



Cabbage Palmetto

This palmetto is tree-like with a stout trunk between 6 and 18 inches thick. Cabbage palms can remain in a juvenile phase for many years and not produce flowers or fruit. The prominent costa typically has 15-30 blue-green leaves with thin fibers between leaf segments.

Fruit are usually less than 1 cm in diameter.



Swamp Palmetto

This palmetto has a solitary, subterranean stem with 4 to 10 dark green leaf segments. The leaves have a weak costa. Leaf segments are joined a short distance near the base and have no filamentous fibers. Leaves are blue-green in color.

Flowers and fruits appear on stems that branch twice and extend beyond the leaves.

Maple Trees



Red Maple

The Red Maple reaches heights 40 to 50 feet tall.

Leaves have three, pointed lobes with serrated edges, like a knife. They are light green in color on top, and a paler/silvery green on bottom. Leaf stems are red and 2 to 4 inches in length. Flowers on this species are red.



Silver Maple

Silver Maples reach heights of 60 to 80 feet in height.

Leaves have 5 to 7 lobes and are 6-8 inches long. The edges of the leaves are serrated. Tops of the leaves are a pale green while bottoms are silvery-white. The leaf stem is red or reddish-green and about 4 inches long. Flowers are also greenish to reddish.



Florida Maple

The Florida Maple is a deciduous tree that commonly reaches 30 feet tall.

The leaves of this tree are palmate with 5 lobes, with irregularly toothed edges at wide intervals. You will find leaves of blue-green color and green flowers to match on this tree. Leaves are significantly smaller than the Silver Maple.

Invasive Species



Japanese Climbing Fern

Find this invasive fine climbing just about anywhere, in sunny and shady locations. JCF typically prefers damp locations.

Because it is a fern, it releases spores that get caught in the wind/air and spread the plant easily.



Coral Ardisia

You can easily identify this invasive shrub by its dark green leaves with scalloped edges and red berries.

This invasive is suspected to be toxic for livestock, pets, and humans. Take extra care if you spot this in the area!



Chinese Tallow

This invasive tree is often called the "popcorn tree" due to the way its seeds pop open with a fluffy white texture, similar in appearance to popcorn.

Large Chinese Tallow trees can easily produce over 100,000 seeds, you can see just how easily this invasive can spread!

Wildlife Foods



Gallberry

Gallberry is a common understory plant in Florida flatwoods.

These evergreen shrubs have a pulpy, deep purple black fruit that is great for birds. Honeybees utilize the flowers to make a unique honey that is slow to crystallize because of its high pollen and enzyme content. Deer and rabbits feed on the leaves.



American Beautyberry

This woody shrub is often found in pinelands and hammocks.

The pink berries are an attractive food source for birds and deer in the late summer/fall. It's flowers serve as a nectar source for butterflies and bees. Humans can crush the leaves and use as a mosquito repellent!



Elderberry

Elderberry is a prolific shrub to small tree that can be spotted on Florida roadsides and wetland edges.

Pollinators enjoy the dense clusters of white flowers. Birds and small game enjoy the coverage and nesting sites provided by the leaves. Many wildlife species, like birds, enjoy the plethora of berries available.