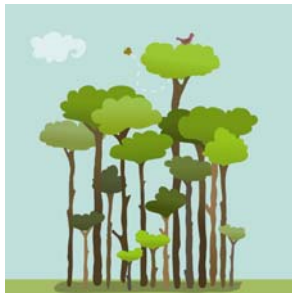


Maritime Forest Scavenger Hunt Cards



Directions: Cut out, glue or tape onto 4x6 index cards with plant pictures on one side and information on the other, and laminate.

Created by Stephanie Springer (2009)



Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*)

What is it? Salt tolerant evergreen tree with reddish bark and flat, fine needles. Bark smells good and looks like it is peeling. Gray/blue berry-like fruit with a whitish waxy coating.

Where is it? Found along edges of maritime forest. Range is all across southern United States.

Fun Facts:

- Wood is highly used for products like pencils and furniture
- Juniper berries are used for seasoning food and drinks
- Try rubbing the berries between your hands to see what happens!



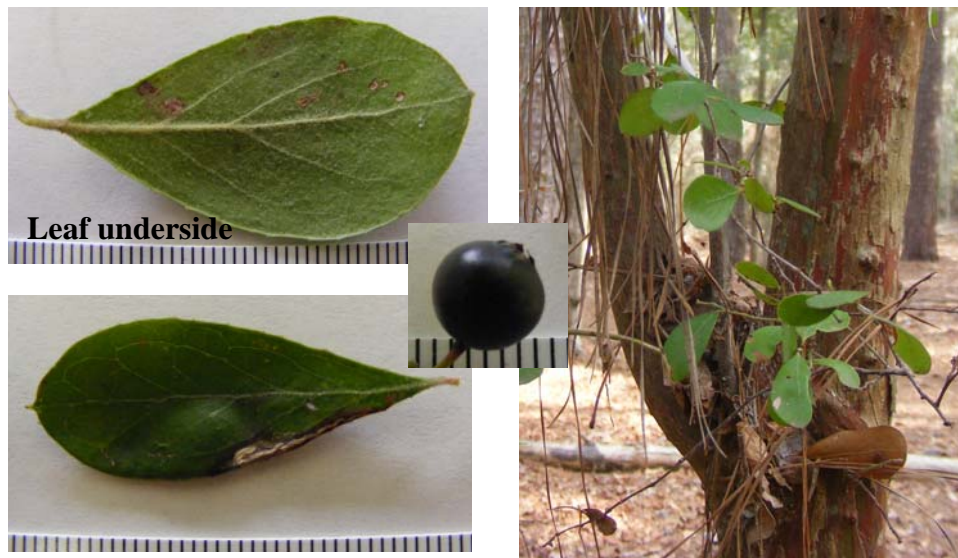
Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

What is it? Tree with dark grey, smooth bark. Leaves are large, oval shaped, and dark shiny green on top with light colored hairs on the bottom. Large fragrant white flowers in spring and summer. Can grow to be 90 feet tall.

Where is it? Common tree found in a mature maritime forest. Range is Florida to North Carolina and as far west as Texas.

Fun Facts:

- Grows well in cities and towns because it is more protected from pollution than other trees
- Famous tree in the South and state flower of Mississippi and Louisiana



Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)

What is it? A small deciduous tree with twisting branches and flaking reddish colored bark. Leaves are small and oval shaped, dark green and shiny on top and paler on the bottom. Leaves turn a purplish color in late fall but do not fall off in the South. Has bell shaped white flowers in spring, followed by shiny blue-black berries.

Where is it? Grows in sunny openings in the maritime forest. Grows in all soil types and areas found throughout southeastern states, and north into Illinois.

Fun Facts:

- Related to blueberries that we eat
- The only blueberry species in North America to grow to tree size



Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

What is it? Palm tree that can grow up to 90 feet tall. Different from the saw palm because its petiole (leaf stem) extends to near the tip of the leaf. Often seen with strings hanging from leaves.

Where is it? Found throughout maritime forest. Native to coastal habitats of the southeastern states.

Fun Facts:

- Often the last tree standing in a hurricane (stronger than oaks and pines)
- Look for the tortoise beetle- seen only on palms like this one!



Sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*)

What is it? Large, deciduous tree that grows up to 150 feet tall. Leaves are 5-pointed, shiny and dark green. Leaves turn red, orange, yellow and purple in the fall before falling off. Fruit is a spiny ball. Look for the fruit on the ground.

Where is it? Most frequently found along streams, ponds or swamps, it is one of the most common southern hardwood trees.

Fun Facts:

- Pioneers used to peel the bark and scrape out the resin to make a chewing gum!
- Twigs can be used to make a “chewstick” toothbrush



Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*)

What is it? Hanging plant with slender, wiry, grayish green stems, most often seen growing on trees. Has tiny green flowers in May and June. Plant has no roots and gets all of its nutrients from the air without harming the host. Called an “epiphyte.”

Where is it? Prefers moist environments and is found in the coastal areas of southeastern United States from Florida to Texas.

Fun Facts:

- Spanish moss is neither from Spain nor a moss, and is actually a bromeliad that is closely related to pineapples.
- Dead and processed Spanish moss resembles hair and was used to stuff furniture and mattresses.



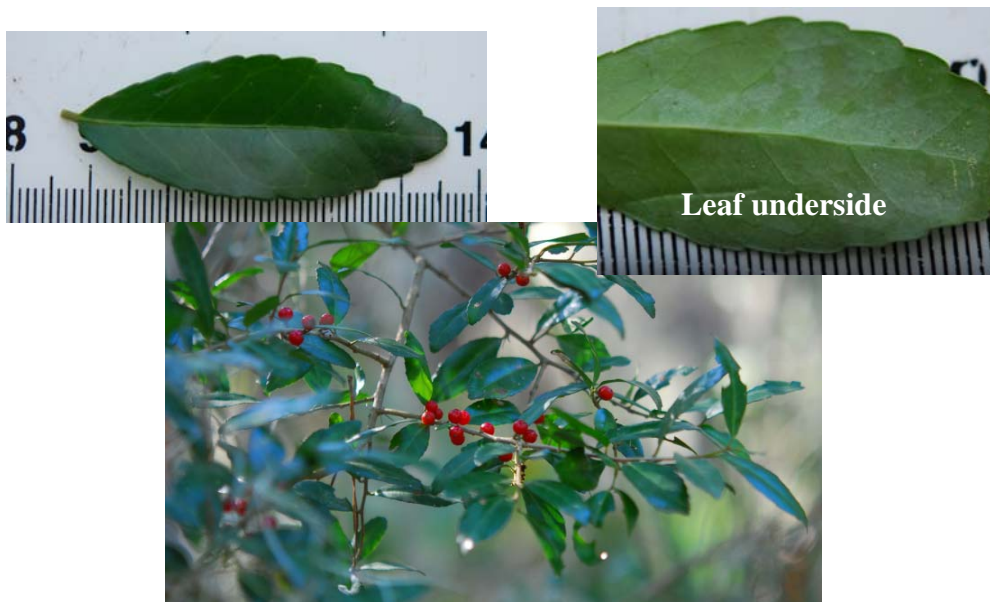
Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

What is it? Huge evergreen tree that can grow up to 60 feet tall with widely spreading branches. Leaves are broad and oval shaped, shiny green on top, but hairy and gray on the bottom. Acorns are oval shaped.

Where is it? Most common tree of the maritime forest, and found throughout all southeastern states.

Fun Facts:

- State tree of Georgia
- Branches were cut and used in ship building because of their natural curve and strength
- Acorns were a food source for Native Americans and are eaten by wildlife



Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

What is it? Small evergreen tree or large bush that grows up to 25 feet tall. Leaves are not pointed like the American holly, but are still small, grey-green and leathery. Separate male and female plants; bright red shiny berries on female plant.

Where is it? Found throughout the maritime forest and coastal plains of all southeastern states.

Fun Facts:

- Native Americans made a tea from the leaves for drinking during ceremonies that included vomiting
- Exported by early settlers to Europe for use as a tea/coffee like drink because of the caffeine content in the leaves



Redbay (*Persea borbonia*)

What is it? Small evergreen tree that can grow to be 50 feet tall. Leaves are large, shiny and oval in shape with a pleasant smell. Small, dark blue fruits in fall.

Where is it? Found throughout maritime forest, and throughout all southeastern states. Subtropical plant, not found very far north.

Fun Facts:

- Related to the avocado
- The Asian Ambrosia beetle, an invasive species, has killed many of these trees in coastal areas
- Leaves used for seasoning food
- Crush up a bay leaf in your hands and smell!



Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

What is it? Evergreen shrub or small tree growing up to 40 feet tall. Leaves are oval shaped with one end wider than the other. Has smooth, grey-green bark with some grey patches.

Where is it? Prefers moist, sandy soils and is found from New Jersey to Florida and west into Texas below 500' elevations.

Fun Facts:

- Also called candleberry or bayberry because colonists used the waxy coating on the fruits and leaves to make fragrant candles.
- Coating makes them burn quickly!



Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)

What is it? A small palm that usually stays close to the ground with a horizontal (sideways) trunk. Leaves are green and fan-like, similar to the cabbage palm. Unlike the cabbage palm, the leaf petiole (stem) does not extend into segments (blades). Leaf stalks have spiny teeth. Flowers May through June. Has orange fruit.

Where is it? Found throughout the maritime forest and upper edges of the salt marsh. Native to coastal regions of the southern states.

Fun Facts:

- Berries were a staple of Native American diet
- Fruit extract used to treat a wide variety of sicknesses including laryngitis and prostate gland disorders.



American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

What is it? A small cone-shaped evergreen tree growing up to 40 feet tall. Leaves are leathery, shiny and round shape with spiny points. Bright red berries on tree in fall and winter. Light gray smooth bark.

Where is it? Native to southeastern states and north up to Delaware.

Fun Facts:

- American Indians used preserved berries as buttons for decoration. Berries were a highly sought after trade item by other tribes
- Separate male and female trees- only females have berries
- Ornamental plant, especially at Christmas time!



Cherry Laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*)

What is it? Small evergreen tree capable of growing up to 40 feet tall. Leaves are oval in shape and can grow up to 4 inches long, colors ranging from yellow-green to dark green. Fragrant white flowers in late winter to early spring followed by blue-black fruits that are 1 cm wide.

Where is it? Native to southeastern states. Prefers moist soils but can withstand drought as well.

Fun Facts:

- Leaves and branches contain high amounts of cyanide which makes them toxic (poisonous) to grazing animals and humans.



Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*)

What is it? A tall slender deciduous tree growing up to 80 feet tall. Leaves grow up to 4 inches long, and are broad and rounded at the tips, narrow at the base. The top of the leaves are multi-colored from blue-green to dull green while the bottoms are hairy. Leaves change color in the fall before falling off. Tree has small round acorns.

Where is it? Grows in moist soils in upland or lowland forests. Native to southeastern states up to 1000' in elevation.

Fun Facts:

- Can grow and produce acorns quickly so it is often a dominant tree in forests.
- Relatively short lived for an oak, only up to 80 years



Laurel Oak (*Quercus laurifolia*)

What is it? Tall evergreen tree growing up to 100 feet tall. Leaves are leathery, elliptical shaped, and up to 4 inches long. Upper surface is shiny bright green, underside is smooth and light green. Tree has small, rounded acorns.

Where is it? Found in a variety of habitats in the coastal regions of southeastern states.

Fun Facts:

- Acorns are an important food source for wildlife
- Has the poorest timber quality of all oaks
- Acorns take 2 years to grow before they drop

References

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John Crawford, personal communication