Trees, Shrubs, and Vines
To know for LVI sampling
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FDEP-SAS
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**Acer rubrum** (red maple) 2203

- **Family**: Sapindaceae
- **Growth/habit**: canopy or understory deciduous tree
- **Bark, leaves**: smooth gray bark, simple palmate leaf with 3-5 lobes, opposite, toothed margins, stems reddish
- **Flowers, fruit**: Flowers red, unisex, early; fruit red, winged double samara
Acer rubrum
**Gordonia lasianthus** (loblolly bay) 299

- **Family**: Theaceae (tea)-Camellia, Stewartia
- **Bark, leaves**: bark is light gray, thick, furrowed when older. Lvs. Alternate, evergreen, leathery, elliptic, crenate to serrate margins, short petioles
- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs solitary, perfect, white, petals crinkly, many yellow stamens; frt a woody capsule, 1.5 cm, splits apically, seed flat, winged
Gordonia lasianthus
Magnolia virginiana (sweetbay) 1001

- **Family**: Magnoliaceae
- **Bark, leaves**: bark smooth and light gray; leaves elliptic, alt., evergreen, leathery, with silvery-white lower surfaces
- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs off-white, perfect, cup shaped, 9-12 petals, fragrant; fruit a persistent conelike cluster of follicles, each with red seed.
Magnolia virginina (sweetbay)
Nyssa sylvatica var. biflora (swamp tupelo) 823

- **Family**: Cornaceae (dogwood) (Nyssaceae)
- **Bark, leaves**: bark dark, brown or gray, deeply furrowed; lvs. decid., alt., green when young, older lvs. often spotted.
- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs. Unisex, same plant, male flwrs small, yellow; female flwrs and frt typically in pairs on a conspicuous stalk; frt a drupe, blue-black when mature
Nyssa sylvatica var. biflora (swamp tupelo)
Nyssa sylvatica var. biflora

- Nyssa ogeche
- Nyssa aquatica
**Persea palustris** (swamp bay) 256

- **Family**: Lauraceae (Cinnamon, avocado, sassafras)
- **Bark, leaves**: gray to brown, rough, vertically fissured on older trees; lvs simple, evergreen, leathery, short petiole, undersides brown-pubescent, sparse to dense. Often has insect galls, aromatic when crushed
- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs perfect, yellow-ish, 2 sets of 3 sepals, frt blue-black drupe
Persea palustris (swamp bay)

Can resemble other “bays”:
Persea borbonia, Gordonia lasianthus, Magnolia virginiana
Quercus laurifolia (swamp laurel oak) 126

- **Family:** Fagaceae (oak, beech)
- **Bark, leaves:** gray and smooth, darker w/shallow plates when older; lvs alternate, thin, tardily decid., shape variable, (oblance., diamond) lustrous, underside dull green, tufts of hairs in some vein axils.
Quercus laurifolia (swamp laurel oak)

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs inconspicuous, unisex, male flwrs in catkins; frt an acorn, two years to mature, squat shape

- **Habit, look-alikes**: canopy tree, can be buttressed in inundated areas. *Q. nigra, Q. virginiana, Q. hemisphaerica.*
Quercus laurifolia (swamp laurel oak)
Quercus nigra (water oak) 77

- **Family**: Fagaceae (oak, beech)
- **Bark, leaves**: thin, gray to brown, smooth turning darker, plated with age; lvs alternate, tardily decid., (bare in late winter) shape spatulate to broadly three-lobed, bristle-tipped.
Quercus nigra (water oak)

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs inconspicuous, unisex, male flwrs in catkins; frt an acorn, two years to mature, ovoid to round.

- **Habit, look-alikes**: canopy tree, frequently “weedy.” Q. laurifolia, Q. virginiana, Q. hemisphaerica.
**Sabal palmetto** (cabbage palm) 283

- **Family**: Arecaceae (Palm family)
- **Bark, leaves**: trunk partially covered with bases of petioles of broken off dead lvs ("boots") gray, fibrous; lvs. Evergreen, spirally arranged from term. bud. Fan shaped w/long midrib
Sabal palmetto (cabbage palm)

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs perfect, small, white, clustered on lateral branches; fruit a round drupe, black, shiny, one-seed
- **Habit, look-alikes**: palm tree of moist to wet areas, variable size, to 30m. When young, *S. minor, S. etonia, Serenoa repens.*
Sabal palmetto (cabbage palm)
Salix caroliniana (Carolina willow) 2207

- **Family**: Salicaceae (willow, cottonwood)
- **Bark, leaves**: brown, ridged and furrowed on larger trees; lvs alternate, deciduous, whitish beneath, shape narrowly lanceolate, toothed margins
Salix caroliniana (Carolina willow)

- **Flowers, fruit**: flowers unisex, male and female on separate plants, in dense catkins; fruit a small capsule, minute seeds with each w/cluster of cottony white hair
- **Habit, look-alikes**: tree or shrub, often in dense thickets. *S. nigra, S. floridana*
Salix caroliniana (Carolina willow)
Taxodium distichum (bald-cypress) 752
Taxodium ascendens (pond-cypress) 1524
(Taxodium spp. 476)

- **Family**: Cupressaceae (Taxodiaceae) cedar, juniper, redwood
- **Bark, leaves**: bark gray to brown with elongated “shredded” plates or strips; lvs alt., spirally arranged, linear, awl like, appressed to branches and somewhat erect in *T. ascendens*; needle-like but soft and in feathery, flattened arrangement in *T. distichum*. 
**Taxodium distichum** (bald-cypress)

**Taxodium ascendens** (pond-cypress)

- **Cones**: woody female cones, round, scaly. Pollen in male cones; separate.

Cephalanthus occidentalis (buttonbush) 2471

- **Family**: Rubiaceae
- **Bark, leaves**: reddish brown and smooth, ridged and furrowed w/age, often w/corky lenticels; lvs deciduous, opp. or whorled, simple, ovate, 7-15 cm long, often reddish petioles
Cephalanthus occidentalis
(buttonbush)

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs perfect, white, funnel-form, single pistil extending beyond flwr. in globose heads on a long stalk. Frt~5 mm ball, in head, persists
- **Habit, look-alikes**: shrub w/arching branches. Somewhat resembles Viburnum, Cornus.
Cephalanthus occidentalis
(buttonbush)
Cliftonia monophylla (buckwheat tree, black titi) 49

- **Family**: Cyrillaceae (Cyrilla, Cliftonia)
- **Bark, leaves**: grayish and smooth, rougher w/age; lvs alt., evergreen, leathery, bright green, veins not evident, short stalked to sessile.
Clifonia monophylla (buckwheat tree, black titi) 49

- **Flowers, fruit**: flowers perfect, radially symmetrical, 5 white petals (turn pinkish), 1 pistil, in a short raceme held erect; fruit a winged drupe, hangs down
- **Habit, look-aikes**: shrub or small tree, can form dense stands. Cyrilla racemiflora,
Cyrilla racemiflora (Titi) 796

- **Family**: Cyrillaceae (Cyrilla, Cliftonia)
- **Bark, leaves**: brownish gray, becoming spongy and peeling to reveal pinkish inner bark; lvs semi-evergreen to deciduous, alt., simple, veins conspicuous on both sides; ends of stems flattened
Cyrilla racemiflora (Titi)

- **Flowers, fruit**: flowers perfect, radially symmetrical, white, in racemes, radiate from previous season’s stem; frt a small, dry, brown capsule, fruiting stalks persist much of year
- **Habit, look-alikes**: shrub or small tree, often densely colonial, esp. in fire suppressed areas. *Cliftonia monophylla*, Ericaceous shrubs.
**Hypericum fasciculatum** (marsh St. John’s wort)

597

- **Family**: Clusiaceae (Hypericum, Triadenum)
- **Bark, leaves**: cinnamon to gray bark is corky, loose, exfoliates in wide strips, showing buff or cinnamon color. Lvs. Linear and needle-like, tightly revolute, usu. only midrib showing on underside
Hypericum fasciculatum (marsh St. John’s wort)

597

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs yellow, 5 petals, pinwheel shape, frt a capsule, first yellow-green, drying golden brown, persists

Distinguishing needle-leaved *Hypericum* spp.
**Ilex cassine** (dahoon holly) 854

- **Family:** Aquifoliaceae
- **Bark, lvs:** bark gray, smooth, often w/lichen; lvs. Alt., evergreen, leathery, pubescent petioles, 2-14 cm long. Spine-tipped or a few spines.
- **Flowers, fruit:** flwrs small and white, unisex (and separate plants), fruit bright red “holly berry”
**Ilex cassine** var. myrtifolia (little leaved holly) 96

- **Family**: Aquifoliaceae
- **Bark, leaves**: bark gray with corky thickenings and pronounced lenticels; lvs. alternate, evergreen, v. small, narrow (.5 to 3 cm long), spine-tipped, dark green, shiny, glabrous above and below.
**Ilex cassine** var. myrtifolia (little leaved holly) 96

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs unisex, white, small 4-petals; male in clusters, female solitary; frt globose bright red drupe.
- **Habit, look-alikes**: evergreen shrub or sm. tree. Branches perpendicular. *I. vomitoria, I. cassine.*
Distinguishing evergreen, wetland *Ilex* spp.

- *Ilex cassine*: usu. med. straight tree, bark smooth throughout; lvs. Larger (2-14 cm); branches ascending.
- *Ilex cassine var. myrtifola*: shrub to small tree, corky bark below, lvs. v. small, narrow, branches perp.
- *Ilex vomitoria*: shrub, small lvs. entirely crenate margins wider than myrt., tangled branches.
*Itea virginica* (Virginia willow) 149

- **Family**: Iteaceae (Itea)
- **Bark, leaves**: bark thin, brownish; lvs. alt., thin, deciduous, elliptic, oval, oblanceolate., margins finely toothed, lower surface sparsely pubescent, prominently veined.
**Itea virginica** (Virginia willow) 149

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs perfect, small, 5 linear petals, long bottle-brush like racemes, arching, hanging; frt a conic-cylindric capsule.
- **Habit, look-alikes**: understory shrub, to 2 m tall. Cyrilla racemiflora, Ericaceous shrubs
Ericaceaeous shrubs

- **All**: simple, alt. leaves, no stipules, typically a hanging, bell-shaped flower (exceptions)
  - *Eubotrys racemosa (Leucothoe racemosa) (133)*: flwrs tubular in racemes, style extends beyond flwr, persists; frt a capsule, minutely serrated thin leaves, deciduous.
  - *Lyonia lucida (201)*: flwrs round, in clusters in leaf axils, white to hot pink; frt a round capsule; lvs leathery, glabrous, raised marginal vein.
Ericaceaeous shrubs

- *Vaccinium corymbosum* (19) including *V. elliottii* (8) (now lumped): shrubs to ~4m, flwrs cylindrical, white to lt. pink, in clusters on shoots of the season; fruit a blueberry! (dull or shiny blue-black berry) *V. corymbosum* individuals with green woody stems, *V. elliottii* serrated, smaller leaf.
Myrica cerifera (wax myrtle, bayberry) 2705

- **Family**: Myricaceae
- **Bark, leaves**: bark pale grayish brown, in inundation often w/expanded lenticels and adventitious roots; lvs evergreen, thin, alternate, lance to elliptic, margins with a few teeth toward tips, glandular dotted on both sides, very aromatic when crushed
Myrica cerifera (wax myrtle, bayberry)

- **Flowers, fruit**: flwrs unisex, on separate plants; frt a knobby drupe covered in whitish gray wax, clustered on branchlets.

- **Habit, look-alikes**: evergreen shrub to small tree, to 12 m tall, usually multi-stemmed and colonial; *M. caroliniensis* (less common, larger thicker leaf that is glaucous underneath, larger darker fruit)
Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis (elderberry)

384

- **Family**: Adoxaceae (Sambucus, Viburnum)
- **Bark, leaves**: bark thin, gray-brown with prominent lenticels; lvs. opp, pinnately compound (some lower bi-pinnately), to 25 cm long, lance shaped, margins serrate, stinky when crushed
Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis (elderberry) 384

- **Flowers, fruit**: flowers perfect, small white, 5 petals, in flat topped, terminal cymes; frt fleshy, purple-black drupe.
- **Habit, look-alikes**: soft stemmed med. to large shrub, to 4 m, clonal and in thickets in wet and disturbed areas. Cicuta mexicana (alternate leaves, herbaceous), Nasturtium officinale (alt. lvs, herb., frt a linear pod), habitat differs.