

WETLAND PLANT COMMUNITY: CYPRESS SWAMP

A. DESCRIPTION:

The predominant swamp type in Lee County. Occurs in strands along shallow drainage systems and as heads/domes where freshwater stands over three months a year.

B. FUNCTION:

✓ WILDLIFE HABITAT
✓ BIOTIC DIVERSITY
✓ STABILIZATION
✓ ENERGY CONSERVATION

✓ UNIQUE FEATURE
✓ LANDSCAPE
✓ RECREATION
✓ AESTHETICS

✓ FLOOD PROTECTION
✓ WATER QUALITY
✓ WATER QUANTITY
✓ CLIMATE MODIFIER

C. SPECIAL CONCERNS:

✓ ENDANGERED FLORA
✓ ENDANGERED FAUNA
SYSTEM DESTRUCTION

✓ LIMITED RESOURCE
✓ REGIONAL RESOURCE
✓ UNIQUE FEATURE

✓ JURISDICTIONAL
✓ SEASONAL FLOOD

D. COMMENTS:

Environmentally critical resource for rare and endangered flora and fauna, water quality, and nutrient recycle pool.

E. TYPICAL DOMINANT PLANTS:

TREES (UPPER STORY)

1. Cypress (*Taxodium spp.*)
2. Dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*)
3. Bay (*Persia spp.*)
4. Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*)
5. Strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*)

SHRUBS (MIDDLE STORY)

1. Wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)
2. Myrsine (*Myrsine guianensis*)
3. Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
4. Green brier (*Smilax spp.*)
5. Buckthorn (*Bumelia reclinata*)

GROUND COVER (UNDER STORY)

1. Swamp fern (*Blechnum serrulatum*)
2. Marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*)
3. Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
4. Smartweed (*Polygonum spp.*)
5. Sowgrass (*Cladium jamaicensis*)