

Florida's 4-H Forest Ecology Clinic

December 2022



Why learn about forests?

- Half of Florida is forested
 - And we have urban forests
 - Important ecosystems
 - Possible careers
 - Hiking and camping
 - Fun to learn about
-
- And compete in a contest!



4-H Forest Ecology Contest



- Austin Cary Forest, Gainesville
- April 15, 2023
- 5 stations for **Juniors** and **Intermediates**
 - Tree Identification
 - Insect and Disease Identification
 - Map and Compass
 - Forest Ecology
 - Forest Wildlife



4-H Forest Ecology Contest



- 6 stations for **Seniors**
 - Tree Identification
 - Insect and Disease Identification
 - Map and Compass
 - Forest Management Quiz
 - Tree Measurement
 - Quiz Bowl



Use your resources

- Website: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-4-h-forest-ecology/>
- County Forester: FFS/DACS
- Local park or forest
 - State Parks
 - State Forests
- FFA teacher or students
- Faculty and students at SFFGS
- Each other!





The website

https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-4-h-forest-ecology/

UF IFAS
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HOME FOREST ECOLOGY CONTEST NATURE POETRY CONTEST 4-H FOREST RESOURCES

FLORIDA 4-H FOREST ECOLOGY



Discover and Get Involved **Contest Registration** **Questions and Contact**

The Florida 4-H Forest Ecology Contest is held every year at the Austin Cary Forest's Roland T. Stern Learning Center in Gainesville, Florida. This is a competitive event that encourages youth to identify forest trees, plants, wildlife, and forest health stresses, and to demonstrate their knowledge of forest ecology and management, map and compass, tree measurement, forest management, and natural history. Youth at all three 4-H age levels can compete individually or in teams.

The next Forest Ecology Clinic will take place Saturday, October 1, 2022, and the 2023 Contest will take place Saturday, April 15, 2023.

JUNIORS AND INTERMEDIATES STATIONS

1. Tree Identification
2. Forest Health

SENIORS STATIONS

1. Tree Identification
2. Forest Health

Click on any station for information

JUNIORS AND INTERMEDIATES STATIONS

- 
1. Tree Identification
 2. Forest Health
 3. Forest Ecosystems
 4. Wildlife Identification
 5. Map & Compass

SENIORS STATIONS

1. Tree Identification
2. Forest Health
3. Map & Compass
4. Tree Measurement
5. Forest Management
6. Quiz Bowl

In addition, several introductory videos are available to help youth get started with tree identification.

- Tree Identification for Juniors
- Tree Identification for Intermediates
- Tree Identification for Seniors

Tree ID information

Common Name	Scientific Name	Juniors (ID 15 of 20)	Intermediates (ID 20 of 28)	Seniors (ID 30 of 51)
American basswood*	<i>Tilia americana</i>			X
American beech*	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>			X
American elm*	<i>Ulmus americana</i>		X	X
American holly*	<i>Ilex opaca</i> var. <i>opaca</i>	X	X	X
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>			X
American sycamore*	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	X	X	X
bald cypress*	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	X	X	X
black cherry*	<i>Prunus serotina</i>		X	X
black locust*	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>			X
black walnut*	<i>Juglans nigra</i>		X	X
blackgum*	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>			X
boxelder*	<i>Acer negundo</i>		X	X
Brazilian peppertree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>			X
Carolina willow**	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>			X
Chinese tallow	<i>Triadica sebifera</i>		X	X

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American Holly

AMERICAN HOLLY

Ilex opaca var. *opaca*

Family: Aquifoliaceae

NATURAL HISTORY

Plants in the holly family - Aquifoliaceae - have been widely-used by humans in landscaping and in holiday decorations.

Because English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) keeps its dark green leaves, and bears bright red fruit in the wintertime, it was used for centuries as a symbol of Christmas and other winter celebrations. European immigrants to North America continued the tradition by using American holly in the same way.

The persistent leaves of American holly often have several thorny spines around the margin. These spines are quite sharp and distinctive. The bright red fruits also help



Leaves and fruit of American holly | Photo credit: Larry

Korhnak, University of Florida

SECTION TOPICS

[Habitat And Range](#)

[Wildlife Use](#)

[Human Use](#)

[Identifying Characteristics](#)

[Images](#)

[Learn More](#)



IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Size/Form: American holly is a medium-sized tree that reaches heights of 30 to 50 feet. It has a pyramidal crown.

Leaves:



Twigs:

Bark:

Flowers:

Fruit:

appear in clusters, but only on female trees.

At the Contest

- Registered competitors will be assigned to a group (A, B, C, D, or E) without your teammates.
- Those who require reading or writing assistance can request it in advance on the registration form.
- You will rotate through the stations and complete a quiz at each station in your group.
- Then Seniors do the Quiz Bowl with their county team.
- You can ask questions at each station after the rotation.
- You eat lunch; Judges score the quizzes.
- Activities and hikes provided.
- Awards Ceremony!

Taking the ID Quizzes

- Long tables of specimens
- Colored cards match your quiz and age level



Yellow for
Juniors

Green for
Intermediates

Blue for
Seniors