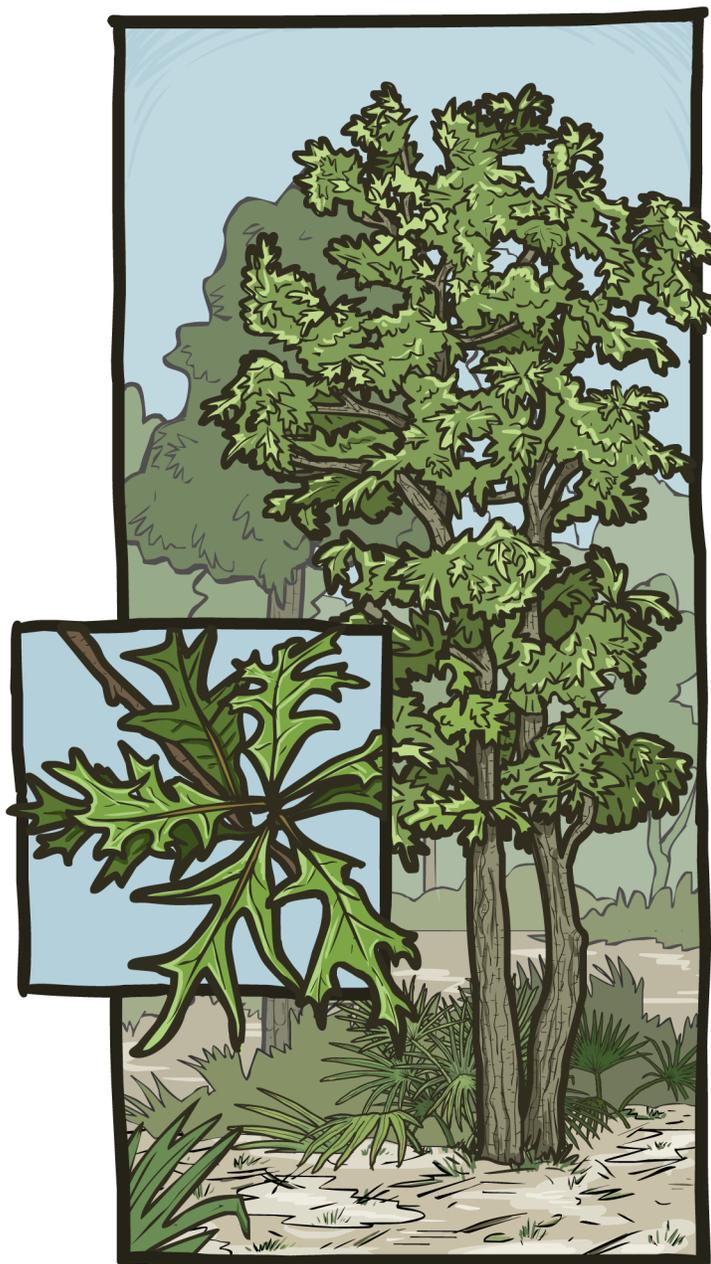


Turkey Oak

(*Quercus laevis*)



Turkey Oak

Instant ID

- A tree with acorns and deeply grooved, gray bark
- Leaves have 3-7 points and grow up to 8 inches long
- Leaves are green with a waxy sheen and turn bright red in autumn
- Normally under 40 feet in height, but can grow to over 70 feet
- Grows with a twisted and stunted appearance in most of Florida

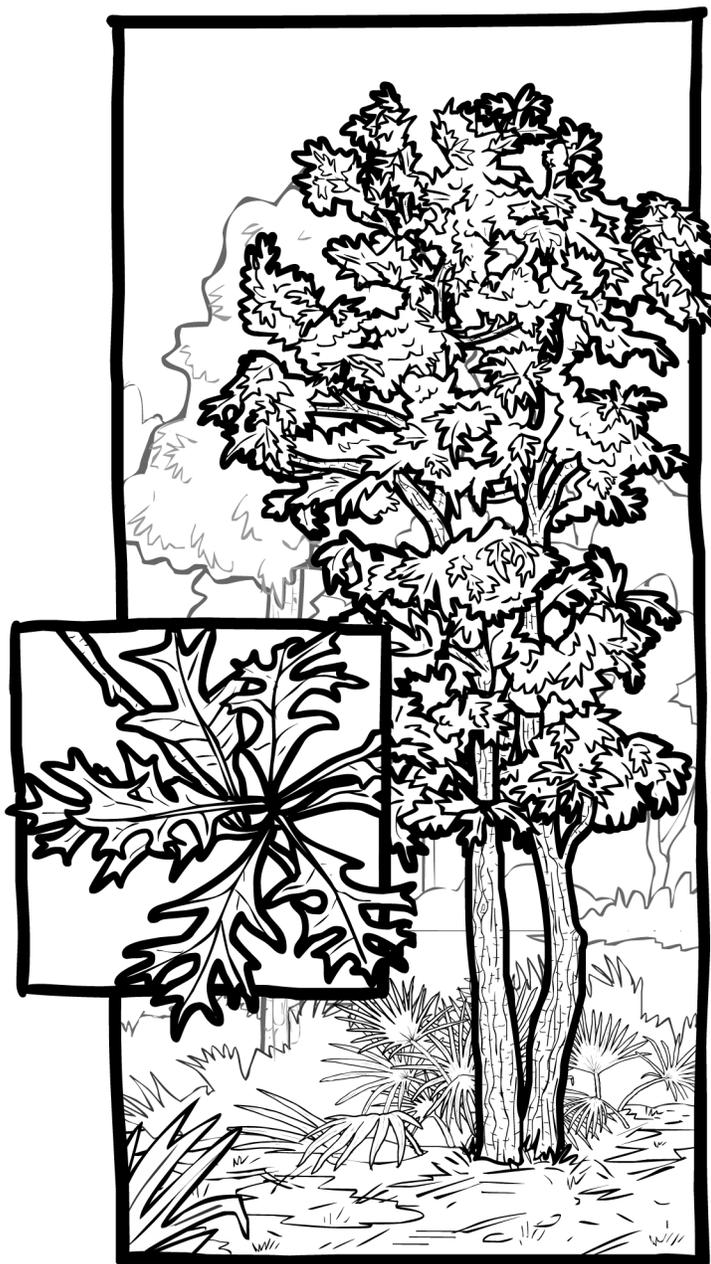
Native Niches

- Grows at lower elevations from Virginia south to Florida and west to Louisiana
- Prefers xeric (dry) habitats with ample sunlight, like sandhills and dunes
- Will remain shrub-like if growing in areas of shade
- Often associated with sandhill habitats



Turkey Oak

(*Quercus laevis*)



Turkey Oak

Plant Particulars

- Name comes from similarity between leaves and turkey footprints
- Acorns are produced yearly and take two years to mature
- Along with six other species, the turkey oak is commonly called a scrub oak
- Sprouts new growth after damage or sends new sprouts up from roots
- Thick bark and waxy leaves make it fire resistant

Population Protection

- Turkey oak is an integral part of many Florida habitats, yet it can take over without appropriate prescribed burning schedules
- Prescribed fire, performed by the Florida Park Service and other government agencies, is a way to apply natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk

