CHAPTER X

LIST OF TREES WHICH MAY IN TIME FIND A PLACE IN EVERGLADE ECONOMY

What will grow on wet Everglade land nobody knows until many species have been carefully tested. After certain pioneers get a foothold other things will follow. It is a slow constructive process. Trees grow in swampy places because they can endure such conditions. It is in many cases merely a test of endurance. Some highland trees can stand flooding for several days and still live, but they have their limitations and it is these limitations that must be determined. It is not the ordinary factors of safety but the extraordinary factors that must be considered in such a region. In addition to the idiosyncrasies of each species there must always be a knowledge of how they conduct themselves in combination and in a land of so many species there are in consequence countless combinations. There is no safer way than Nature's way, since Nature over a period of centuries under favorable conditions has developed many unbeatable combinations. There is no need of introducing new species until we have studied and used to advantage what we already have. There are hundreds of others, but if we know the following fifty well, place them where they belong in the proper combinations and relations and produce from them what they are capable of yielding, it will be a greater conquest than has ever been accomplished before in any part of this country. Tropical trees grow naturally in associations. There are few pure stands as in Northern regions. This formation into groups over a period of centuries is therefore the result of long experi-

mentation on the part of Nature. The hammock trees belong to the hammock and to each other; this applies as well to the fresh water swamp and the salt swamp. Therefore when you remove a tree from the natural association of its fellows and plant it alone by itself, you can never safely predict the result until somebody tries it. The ideal forest is to substitute in the climax jungle in place of the trees planted therein by Nature similar kinds that will yield mankind not only lumber fibers, waxes, medicines, tannins, dyes, gums, etc., but food for himself and fodder for his animals as well. In other words change the jungle only in so far as is needful to fit his needs.

Pinaceae. **Pine-family.**

Pinus caribaea. **Caribbean-pine.**

A hardy native tropical pine. Grows rapidly especially in youth. Withstands fire and wind to a marvellous degree. Will probably be extensively planted for the manufacture of paper-pulp on a five-year rotation before the heart-wood has time to form. Old stumps and heartwood rich in products for dry distillation yielding acetone, wood-alcohol, pyroligneous acid, charcoal and other products. Seeds freely and grows in many very inhospitable places.

Juniperaceae. **Juniper-family.**

Taxodium distichum. **Bald-cypress.**

The famous Southern softwood. Common in wet swamps. Probably reaches largest size of any eastern timber tree. Cypress trees in their favorite location in the moist springy soil at the sources of streams are commonly called "Cypress heads".

Sabina virginiana. **Red-cedar.**

Old fields and along fence-rows.

Sabina barbadensis. **Pencil-cedar.**

In wet areas.

Poaceae. **Grass-family.**

Several species of **bamboo,** the well-known tropical tree-grasses.

Arecaceae. **Palm-family.**

Sabal palmetto. **Cabbage-palmetto.**

The most beautiful and useful of our native palms. The berries are used in medicine for bladder trouble. The terminal bud has been extensively canned but it kills the palm and I understand is supposed to be against the law. The trunk is used for brushes, piling and other purposes. It is characteristic of the old Florida landscape and should be protected and encouraged.

Cocos nucifera. **Cocopalm.**

The most useful of all palms.

Casuarinaceae. **Australian-pine family.**

Casuarina equisetifolia. **Beef-wood.**

Very quick, straight grower on all kinds of soils. Yields a hard useful wood, the color of beef. Excellent for windbreaks in hedgeform or in groups. Seeds freely even while very young, being rapidly superseded by another species which produces no seeds but suckers freely from the root. Promises soon to become a conspicuous part of the South Florida landscape. In strong favor as a windbreak for groves, and produces a white wood similar to and apparently as tough as hickory.

Fagaceae. **Oak-family.**

Quercus virginiana. **Live-oak.**

The best known, toughest and heaviest of oaks. Yielded timber for ship-construction. Our first federal forest reservation was established on Santa Rosa Island to furnish live-oak for the Navy. The sturdiest and most popular tree in the Southeastern United States of America. Shades many old colonial mansions. The gray

moss furnishes a home for squirrels and other creatures. Woodducks and other animals feed on its acorns. Grew to enormous size on islands in the region of the Everglades.

Artocarpaceae. **Mulberry-family.**

Morus rubra and nigra mulberries.

Fruits relished by man and animals. Wood good. Forage fine for fodder. Grows easily from cuttings.

Ficus brevifolia and aurea. **Wild-figs.**

Fast growers. Might be useful for pulp with rubber as a by-product.

Ficus sycamorus. **Pharaoh's-fig.**

A quick-growing tree. Excellent for shade and possibly for paper-pulp.

Trophis racemosa. **Ramon.**

Fodder from this tree supports horses and mules in Spanish America.

Urticaceae. **Nettle-family.**

Boehmeria nivea. **Ramie.**

Our finest fiber. Will probably grow in great luxuriance on wet land.

Polygonaceae. **Buckweat-family.**

Cocolobis uvifera. **Sea-grape.**

Our common sea-grape. Freely used of late for ornamental purposes. Will probably grow well in moist inland sections.

Annonaceae. **Custard-apple-family.**

Annona glabra. **Pond-apple.**

A wonderful land reclaimer in the Everglade section. One of the finest forests of this tree in the world was once located around Okeechobee.

Annona muricata. **Sour-sop.**

One of our best tropical fruits.

Moringaceae. **Horseradish-tree-family.**
Moringa moringa. **The Horseradish Tree.**
Yields the Oil of Ben commonly used for lubricating watches. A fast grower. Easily reproduced from seeds or slips. Should be more extensively tested on wild land.

Altingiaceae. **Sweet-gum-family.**
Liquidamber styraciflua. **Sweet-gum.**
Our second most important hardwood. Grows in wet, sour land. Yields storax gum and is a beautiful swampland tree. One of the commonest and hardiest trees in the Southland.

Amydalaceae. **Plum-family.**
Chrysobalanus icaco. **Cocoplum.**
Very common wild tree in the Everglade Region.

Laurocerasus myrtifolia. **West Indian cherry.**
A fine tree with hard wood.

Mimosaceae. **Mimosa-family.**
Pithecolobium guadelupense. **Goat-bush.**
Small tree, most excellent for soil betterment. Forerunner to hammock growth. Rich green underwood yielding rich litter to the soil.

Albizzia lebbek. **Lebbek-tree.**
Valuable soil improver and protector. Excellent for nurse or shelter purposes. Spreading rapidly of its own accord.

Lysiloma bahamensis. **Wild-tamarind.**
Another wonderful soil improver and protector. Fine for shelter. Yields a rich litter and produces a very beautiful cabinet wood.

Fabaceae. **Pea-family.**
Ichthyomethia piscipula. **Jamaica-dogwood.**
A great soil regenerator. Rapid grower, yielding excellent cabinet wood. Bark of root and

branches contains an opiate. Used to stupefy fish. Relieves toothache and other pains if properly applied. May be useful for fly-dope.

Cajanus cajan. **Pigeon-pea.**

Great soil improver. Yields peas of high food value, also fodder.

Zygophyllaceae. **Caltrop-family.**

Guaiacum sanctum. **Lignum-vitae.**

Our toughest wood, also a beautiful ornamental. Gum still used in medicine.

Meliaceae. **Chinaberry-family.**

Swietenia mahagoni. **Mahogany.**

The prince of cabinet woods.

Swietenia macrophylla. **Big-leaved-mahogany.**

Like the preceding, but not so hard and heavy.

Cedrela adorata. **Spanish-cedar.**

Well-known tropical softwood that grows with mahogany. Much used for cigar-boxes.

Spondiaceae. **Sumac-family.**

Mangifera indica. **Mango.**

Fine fruit. Sturdy tree. Good also for wood. Fast grower and a beautiful tree.

Aquifoliaceae. **Holly-family.**

Ilex vomitoria. **American-maté.**

Yields the famous Black Drink of the Indians. Contains caffeine and is used in place of Oriental tea. Used like other hollies for holiday decorations.

Sapindaceae. **Soapberry-family.**

Blighia sapida. **Akee.**

A great food tree in the West Indies called also vegetable calf-brains.

Euphorbiaceae. **Spurge-family.**

Euphorbia pulcherrima. **Poinsettia.**

Reports are current that this plant might be developed into a rubber yielder, if so fields of this plant would be a marvellous sight when the leaves are in full crimson color.

Ricinus communis. **Castor-bean.**

Still useful as an oil producer for medicinal and lubrication purposes. Produces a quick ground cover in moist, mucky places.

Drypetes diversifolia. **White-wood.**

A very beautiful tree, with leaves of many shapes. There is little known about the tree except that it has been almost exterminated for pilings for docks since it is one of the few timbers not consumed by the **teredo** or **ship-worm.**

Aleurites moluccana. **Candle-nut.**

Grows quickly. Yields an oil equal to the best grade of linseed. Refuse from nuts after oil is extracted fine for plant-food. Prolific bearer of nuts and should be planted in forest formation on thousands of our unused acres.

Frangulaceae. **Buckthorn-family.**
Krugiodendron ferreum. **Black-iron-wood.**

Said to be the heaviest wood in the world.

Malvaceae. **Mallow-family.**
Paritium tiliaceum. **Mahoe.**

Quick grower, easily produced from cuttings. Yields a very strong fiber from its inner bark.

Bombaceae. **Silk-cotton-tree-family.**
Ceiba pentandra. **Silk-cotton-tree.**

Can be produced by sticking limbs of considerable size into the ground. Yields the well-known **kapock** of commerce. C. acuminata and æsculifolia yield the Mexican **pochote** the best of all fibers for mattresses and cushions.

Lauraceae. **Laurel-family.**
Camphora camphora. **Camphor-tree.**

A majestic tree that grows well on good deep soil in Florida. The manufacture of synthetic camphor may check its popularity from a com-

mercial standpoint, but its wood is just as fragrant and lasting and the tree just as beautiful as ever.

Terminaliaceae. **White-mangrove-family.**
Conocarpus erecta. **Button-wood.**

Yields a very fine wood for fuel and charcoal. Burns with little smoke and hot flame. The tree blows over and blows over in muddy places, but goes on growing just the same. Its natural habitat is **salina-land,** but it will probably grow just as well in fresh swamps.

Myrtaceae. **Myrtle-family.**
Psidium guajava. **Guava.**

Our best known jelly fruit. Relished also by cattle.

Eucalyptus spp. **Eucalyptus.**

Famous in California but not so successful in South Florida.

Melaleuca leucadendron. **Cajeput.**

A fine tree for acid **flat-woods.** Withstands fire and although the seed is extremely small is spreading naturally in wet places on the West Coast. Yields a well-known oil. Flowers liked by honey bees. Wood hard and heavy.

Rhizophoraceae. **Mangrove-family.**
Rhizophora mangle. **Red-mangrove.**

The tree that fights the sea. Reaches maximal growth on the Gulf in Southwestern Florida. Although useful for tan-bark and charcoal should be left to protect and consolidate muddy shores.

Sapotaceae. **Sapodilla-family.**
Sapota achras. **Sapodilla.**

Yields the **chicle** or chewing-gum of commerce. Produces an everlasting heartwood and a fine fruit. Very hardy on limestone soils.

Sideroxylon foetidissimum. **Mastic.**

A fine timber in South Florida and the West Indies. The largest trees I have ever seen in the Antillean area are in low hammocks in South Florida.

Avicenniaceae. **Black-mangrove-family.**
Avicenna nitida. **Black mangrove.**

A curious tropical tree that grows in salt water close to the sea. Will probably grow also in fresh water. Wood yields a smoke that keeps off mosquitoes and sandflies.

Rubiaceae. **Madder-family.**
Exostema caribaeum. **Princewood.**

A fine tree for the production of tonic bitters.

Caprifoliaceae. **Honeysuckle-family.**
Sambucus intermedia. **Florida-elderberry.**

A well-known tree throughout the South. Famous for its wine and pies.

In the above nomenclature I have tried to follow Dr. Small, who is probably our best living authority on Southern plants.