Common Name: FLORIDA WILLOW

Scientific Name: *Salix floridana* Chapman

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Salix chapmanii* Small, *Salix astatulana* Murrill & E. J. Palmer

Family: Salicaceae (willow)

Rarity Ranks: G2/S1

State Legal Status: Endangered

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: FACW

Description: Small, slender **tree or shrub** to 20 feet (6 meters) tall, with gray bark and brittle, reddish-brown twigs. **Leaves** 2 - 6 inches (5 - 15 cm) long and ¾ - 2 inches (2 - 5 cm) wide, deciduous, alternate, oblong with rounded or heart-shaped bases and pointed tips; margins toothed with tiny, knobbed glands; upper leaf surface bright green, lower surface grayish-white with hairy, brown veins; leaves on new growth often with half-circular **stipules** (leafy structures

at the base of the leaf stalk). **Female and male flowers** on separate plants, in catkins 1¼ - 3¼ inches (4 - 7.5 cm) long (male catkins shown in photo). **Fruit** an oval, reddish-brown capsule, about ¼ inch (6 - 7 mm) long.

Similar Species: Carolina willow (*Salix caroliniana*) is a tree to about 30 feet (10 meters) tall, with leaves up to 8 inches (20 cm) long and only 1⅜ inches (3.5 cm) wide, with gray-blue lower surfaces. Black willow (*S. nigra*) is a large tree with leaves less than ⅞ inch wide, with pale green lower surfaces and lacking stipules.

Related Rare Species: None in Georgia.

Habitat: Edges of spring-fed streams and springheads, openings in wet woods with sphagnum moss, alder, Virginia willow, and club moss.

Life History: Unlike the majority of catkin-bearing plants, which are wind-pollinated, most willows are pollinated primarily by insects, especially bees, which collect nectar from glands at the base of each flower. Florida willow may also reproduce vegetatively, its brittle branches easily breaking off and rooting further downstream.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during fruiting (March–April), since leaves and fruits are both useful for positive identification.

Range: Georgia and Florida.

Threats: Pollution and sedimentation of springs and spring-runs, logging and clearing in floodplains, alterations of hydrology that affect spring flow.

Georgia Conservation Status: Six populations have been seen since 1902, but only two have survived; one of these is on a conservation area.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Protect springs and spring runs from pollution, sedimentation, and hydrologic changes. Protect floodplains and other wetlands from clearcutting and draining.

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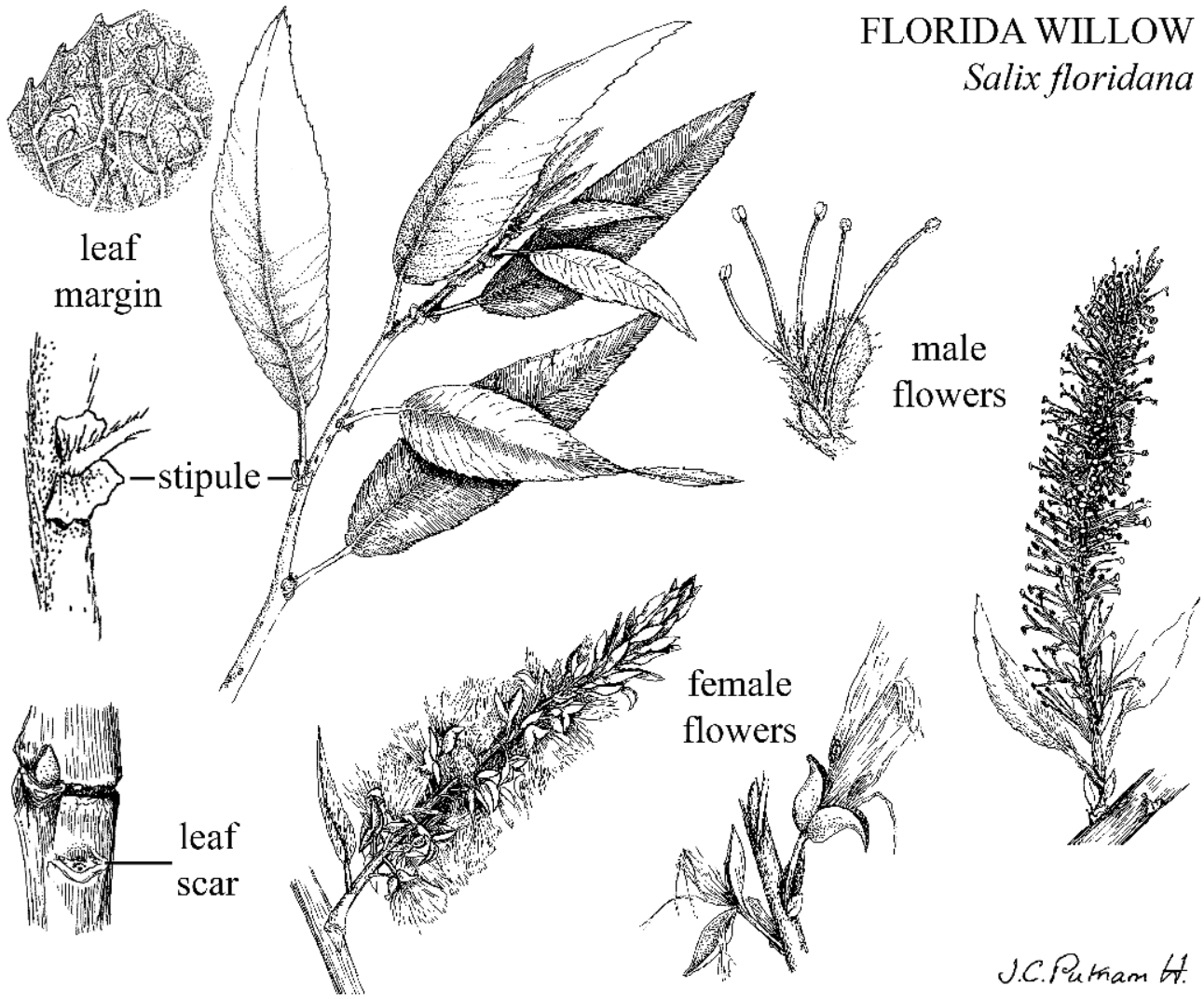
Date Compiled or Updated:
L.Chafin, Aug. 2008: original account
D.Weiler, Feb. 2010: added pictures


FLORIDA WILLOW
Salix floridana
leaf
margin
stipule
male
flowers
female
flowers
leaf
scar
J.C. Putnam H.