Key to Florida Wetland Plants

For use the the manual: **FLORIDA WETLAND PLANTS, AN IDENTIFICATION MANUAL**
This manual is color coded for use in finding the following great groups, within each great group the families and genera are arranged alphabetically.

Color	Great Group
GREEN -	Ferns and Fern Allies
BROWN -	Gymnosperms (Conifers)
BLUE -	Monocots (Flowering plants)
GOLD -	Dicots (Flowering plants)

Once you discover the family characteristics you will be able to use this book more efficiently. The following key has been constructed using primarily vegetative and growth form characteristics to help with identifying the families. For example, there are groups for palms, grass like plants, carnivorous plants. This key presupposes that the user knows something about the life history of the plant in question, for example: spore versus seed production, cones versus flowers, aquatic versus terrestrial.

Like the manual, the following keys are arranged by great groups;
(1) Ferns and Fern Allies, (2) Gymnosperms (conifers), (3) Monocots, (4) Herbaceous Dicots and **(5) Woody Dicots.**
Almost all the Keys are dichotomous. The are arranged by subgroups and these were created by grouping plants with similar vegetative characterists. The subgroups contain keys to the families.

Key to the Great Groups

The following characteristics are shared by each great group.

1. Plants reproducing by dust-like spores produced in cones or on leaves, leaves either small and scale-like or larger and nearly always pinnately compound. **Ferns and Fern Allies**

1. Plants reproducing by seeds produced in cones or flowers; leaves various, if broad usually with net venation 2

- **2.** Plants with cones, needlelike leaves, and often a turpentine-like smell; trees and shrubs **Gymnosperms (conifers)**
- **2.** Plants with flowers, fruit or broad leaves; trees, shrubs or herbs **Flowering Plants (Angiosperms), contains two groups, the monocots and dicots**

Keys to the Flowering Plants (Angiosperms)

1. Plants with parallel veins, flowers in parts of threes, generally herbaceous (except for palms) **Monocots**

1. Plants with net venations, flowers in parts of 4s or 5s, fruit various Dicots

- **2.** Plants with herbaceous growth, generally plants in the groundcover. **Herbaceous Dicots**
- **2.** Plants with woody growth, shrubs and trees. **Woody Dicots**

FLORIDA WETLAND PLANTS, AN IDENTIFICATION MANUAL can be purchased from the University of Florida, Food and Agricultural Sciences. 1-800-226-1764, P.O. Box 110011, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611-0011.