# BIOL 301 – Plant Taxonomy

# MAJOR COMMUNITY TYPES FOUND IN THE SC LOWCOUNTRY

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| **COMMUNITY TYPE** | KEY ECOLOGICAL FACTORS |
| **1. Coastal Communities** * coastal beaches
* coastal dunes
* maritime shrub thickets
* maritime forests
* salt shrub thickets
* salt marshes
* salt flats
* shell mounds
 | * distance from ocean
* landscape position
* soil development
* salinity
 |
| **2. Riverside Communities*** brackish marshes
* tidal freshwater marshes

tidal freshwater swamp forests * stream banks
 | * distance from ocean (tide, salinity)
* origin of river (blackwater vs. redwater)
* management history (rice, waterfowl)
* topography
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| **3. Freshwater Aquatic Communities**lakes and pondsrivers and streams | * open water
* water chemistry
* available sunlight
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| **4. Pocosins**  | * landscape position
* organic matter accumulation
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| **Bottomland Forests**bald cypress-tupelo gum swamps* + hardwood bottoms
 | * + landscape position
	+ hydrology patterns
 |
| **6. Upland Deciduous Forests**marl forests * + - beech woods
		- oak-hickory forests
		- sandy, dry, open woods
 | * + soil type
	+ pH
	+ landscape position (slope, aspect)
 |
| **7. Pine Forests** * xeric sandhills
* longleaf pine flatwoods
* longleaf pine savannas

pine-saw palmetto flatwoods* pine-mixed hardwood forests
 | * + soil type
	+ fire history
	+ landscape position (soil moisture)
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| 1. **Pond Cypress Forests**
	* pond cypress savannas
	* pond cypress-swamp gum swamps
 | * + soil type
	+ landscape position (duration of standing water)
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| **9. Ruderal Communities**  | * disturbance history
* soil type
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# (adapted with permission from Wildflowers of the Carolina Lowcountry and Lower Pee Dee, Richard D. Porcher, USC Press, 1995)