# 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 |
| **3. Freshwater Aquatic Communities**  lakes and ponds  rivers and streams | * open water * water chemistry * available sunlight |
| **4. Pocosins** | * landscape position * organic matter accumulation |
| **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) |
| 1. **Pond Cypress Forests**    * pond cypress savannas    * pond cypress-swamp gum swamps | * + soil type   + landscape position (duration of standing water) |
| **9. Ruderal Communities** | * disturbance history * soil type |

# (adapted with permission from Wildflowers of the Carolina Lowcountry and Lower Pee Dee, Richard D. Porcher, USC Press, 1995)