

Habitat and Distribution.—Oaks are among the most common of Florida trees, for a total of 28 species or varieties are native in the various parts of the state. Turkey oak, also known as Sand Black Jack and Scrub Oak (*Quercus laevis* Walt.) (Fig. 18) is a well known and widely distributed species especially common on the rolling sandy ridges known as high pine turkey oak land or black jack ridges. It is common in the drier parts of many cattle ranges. Many other kinds such as white, basket, chestnut, red, scrub, runner, laurel, water, live and swamp oak are common and readily recognized in various parts of the state.

Toxicity.—The toxic principle of oak leaves is unknown. Their toxicity is not due to the tannic acid content.

Oak poisoning occurs chiefly in cattle and sheep. Poisoning occurs as a result of eating buds, green shoots and young leaves as an almost exclusive diet when other forage is scarce, and consequently has been observed most frequently during the winter or spring.

Cases of acorn poisoning have been described in horses.

Symptoms.—Obstinate constipation is an early symptom. The stool is hard and lumpy and often covered with mucus and blood after a few days of illness. Constipation occasionally is followed by diarrhea. The animal is gaunt, the hair coat is rough and the muzzle is dry and cracked. Inappetence occurs early usually with increased thirst. Respirations and temperature usually remain normal but the pulse is weak. There is marked depression and evidence of abdominal pain. Affected animals become progressively weaker and die within 2 to 14 days. In extended illness emaciation occurs.

Prevention.—Animals should not be allowed to feed exclusively on oak leaves. Other feed should be provided, so that large quantities of oak leaves will not be consumed.

Treatment.—Treatment of affected animals is not particularly satisfactory. Saline purgatives followed by emollients are of some value in treatment.

Castor-bean, Palma Crista, Castor-oil Plant

Description.—Castor-bean (*Ricinus communis* L.) is a robust annual herb (or small tree southward). The strong stems, 4 to 10 feet high, are erect, often crooked, green or red to purple and sometimes covered with a white, waxy coating. The alternate leaves, 4 to 30 inches across, are simple and borne on long,