

# TROPICAL HARDWOOD HAMMOCK



▲ Strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*) – Indigenous cultures used to make chewing gum from the white sap that oozes from cut leaves or branches. Roots may have also been used to make arrows, bowstrings and fishing lines.



▲ Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) – Indigenous cultures used to absorb unwanted liquids while cooking, as well as for bedding and tanning hides. Dried moss was used as stuffing for early automobile cushions and mattresses.

**Tropical hardwood hammocks are elevated, closed-canopy forests found throughout Miami-Dade County comprised of both temperate species in their southernmost range, such as live oak, and tropical species, such as gumbo limbo and paradise tree.**

The forest community is known to have a larger amount of species diversity when compared to the hardwood forests of central Florida. The higher elevation found within hammocks provide for an ideal settlement, with many plants serving as sources of food and material resources for indigenous cultures and later settlers.



▲ Gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) – Indigenous cultures used logs for posts and pilings and sap was used to make glue. More recently, wood was used for making carousel horses.



▶ Coontie (*Zamia pumila*) – Indigenous cultures and settlers used a flour prepared from the roots, after washing or boiling to remove the toxin, cycasin.



▶ Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) – Indigenous cultures and settlers harvested acorns for food, utilized the hardwood for making tools, and also as fuel.



◀ Sabal Palm (*Sabal palmetto*) – Early Floridians cut out the main bud and ate it cooked or raw. Seminoles used berries for grass sickness and used the fronds for thatch houses, mats, fibers and rope.



For Spanish and Creole,  
scan QR Code