

Range of South Florida Slash Pine

Abstract. This paper revises a previously published range map of South Florida slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* Engelm. var. *densa* Little & Dorman) (Jour. Forestry 50:918-923) and shows that this species occurs inland in the south central part of Florida.

Little and Dorman described South Florida slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* Engelm. var. *densa* Little and Dorman) as a new botanical variety in 1952.¹ A later paper by these authors gave a full discussion of the nomenclature, description of the two varieties of slash pine and their natural ranges, including a range map.²

Since this earlier work, the author has made additional field observations of the distribution of South Florida slash pine in the course of 8 years of research work with this variety. Its field identification was based primarily on seedling stem form and general growth characteristics. The results of these observations show that, in addition to the range previously described by Little and Dorman, this species extends inland in the south central part of Florida. The revised range map for South Florida slash pine is given in Figure 1, and the revised range description follows:

Range.—Known only from Florida; southern and south central part and along both coasts in north central part.³ Southern Florida from lower Florida Keys

(Big Pine Key, Little Pine Key, No Name Key, Cudjoe Key, Ramrod Key, Big Torch Key, Middle Torch Key, and Howe Key; not on other lower Keys or upper Keys; formerly found on north Key Largo, but now extinct)⁴ north to Lake Sumter,

⁴Alexander, Taylor R. Plant succession on Key Largo, Florida, involving *Pinus caribaea* and *Quercus virginiana*. Fla. Acad. Sci. Quart. Jour. 16:133-138, 1953.

and Orange Counties in central Florida northward in a narrow strip along the Atlantic Coast to Volusia County and northward in a narrow strip along Gulf Coast to Levy County.

In the southern part of its range from Sarasota, Charlotte, Highlands, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties southward, South Florida slash pine occurs in pure stands on the flatwoods sites. From these counties northward, within its range, South Florida slash occurs on the wetter sites along

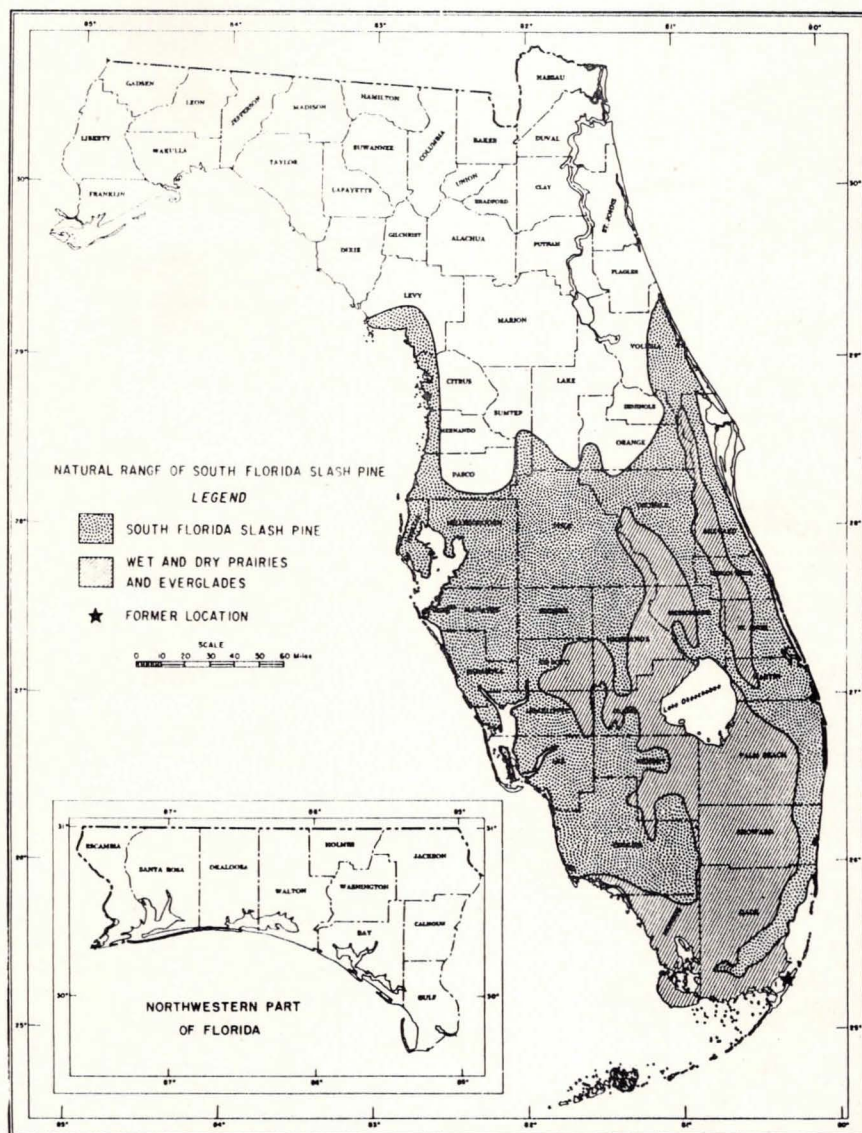


FIG. 1.—Natural range of South Florida slash pine.

¹Little, Elbert L., Jr., and Keith W. Dorman. Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), its nomenclature and varieties. Jour. Forestry 50:918-923, 1952.

²Little, Elbert L., Jr., and Keith W. Dorman. Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) including South Florida slash pine nomenclature and description. U. S. Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Expt. Sta. Paper 36. 82 pp. Illus. 1954.

³The italics indicate a revision of the original range description by Little and Dorman.

streams and in other poorly drained or swampy areas. The factors that probably limit the northward extension of its range are lower winter temperatures and soil-site conditions. The relatively drier sites in the northern part of its range are occupied by longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) and sand pine (*Pinus clausa* [Chapm.] Vasey). Longleaf and South Florida

slash pines are found in mixtures usually only in the transition zones between the dry and the wet sites. South Florida slash and the slash pine of northern Florida (*Pinus elliottii* Engelm. var. *elliottii*) both occur on the same sites on the northern fringe of this range.

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