

OFFICIAL  
*Louisiana*  
COLORING BOOK



*Compliments of*  
SECRETARY OF STATE KYLE ARDOIN

SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

R. KYLE ARDOIN  
SECRETARY OF STATE



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*Dear student,*

*Louisiana is a state like no other. We hold a unique place in the history of the United States and take pride in the many things that help to distinguish our people, the places they live and the things they cherish the most.*

*Known for our cultural diversity, Louisiana's rich heritage can be linked to our official state symbols. This coloring book includes a sampling of those symbols and gives you a chance to use your artistic imagination to complete them. A complete listing of state symbols can be found in our Louisiana Facts booklet or by visiting the Louisiana Legislature's website.*

*We hope you enjoy learning and exploring Louisiana. Please feel free to contact the Secretary of State's Office should you need assistance in the future.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle Ardoin".

*Kyle Ardoin  
Secretary of State*



## State Seal



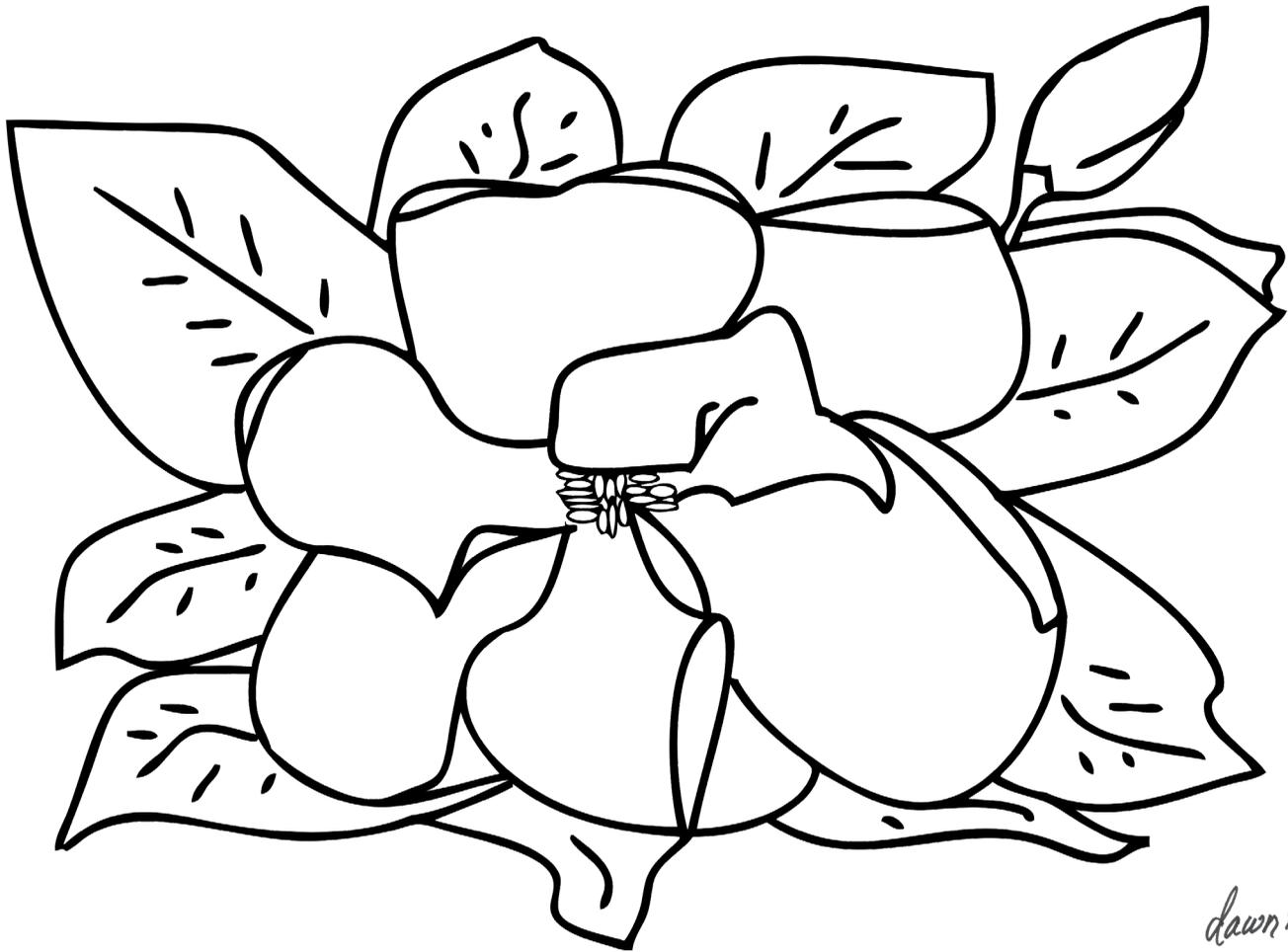
In 1902, Gov. William Henry Wright Heard directed the secretary of state to use a state seal of this description: “A Pelican, with its head turned to the left, in nest with three young; the Pelican, following the tradition in act of tearing its breast to feed its young; around the edge of the seal to be inscribed ‘State of Louisiana.’ Over head of the Pelican to be inscribed ‘Confidence.’” That is the seal that represents the State of Louisiana today.

## State Flag



**This official flag of Louisiana is now in general use, consisting of a solid blue field with the coat-of-arms of the state, the pelican feeding its young, in white in the center, with a ribbon beneath, also in white, containing in blue the motto of the state, “Union, Justice and Confidence.” It was adopted by an Act of the Legislature in 1912.**

## State Flower: Magnolia



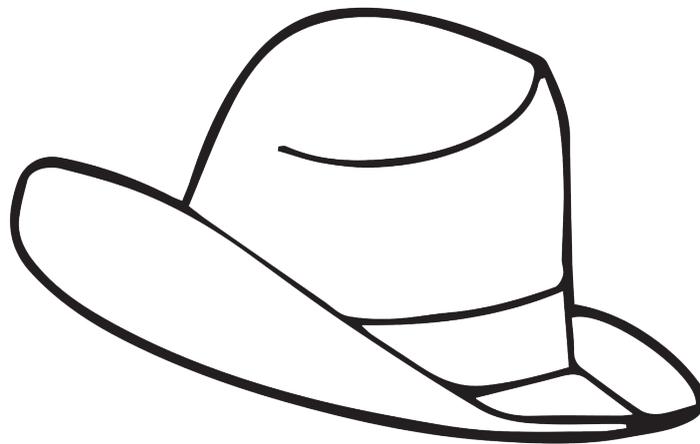
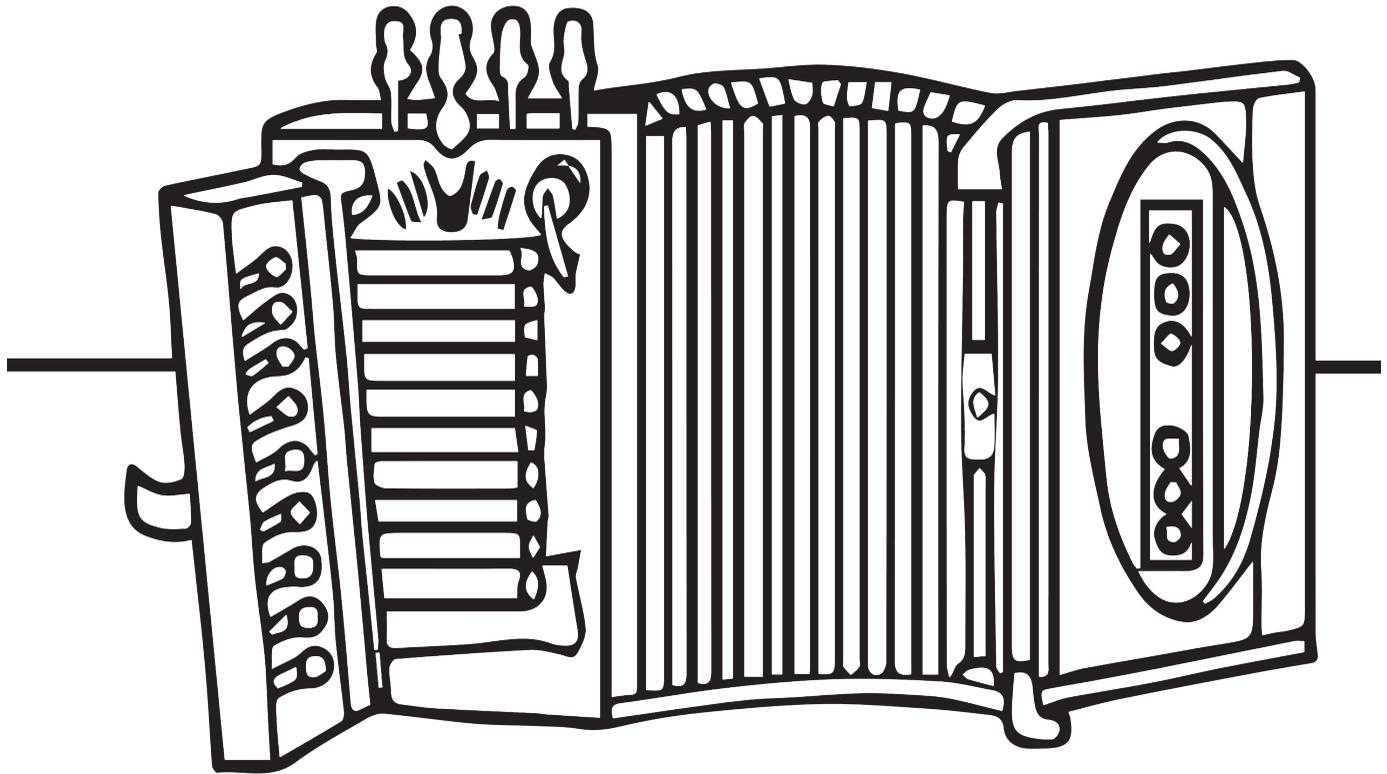
The large creamy-white bloom of the magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*) was designated the state flower in 1900 because of the abundance of trees throughout the state. The magnolia is an evergreen, and the flower is usually fragrant. After the six to 12 petals of the flower have fallen away the large cone shaped fruit of the magnolia is exposed.

## State Wildflower: Louisiana Iris



The Louisiana iris (*Giganticaerulea*) is perhaps the most magnificent of its species. Although it is adaptable to all climates, it is seen growing wild mainly in damp, marshy locations in Louisiana's coastal areas and for perhaps 100 miles inland. This graceful beauty grows to a height of five or six feet and has a wider color range than any other iris, from pale blue to deep indigo. It became our official wildflower in 1990.

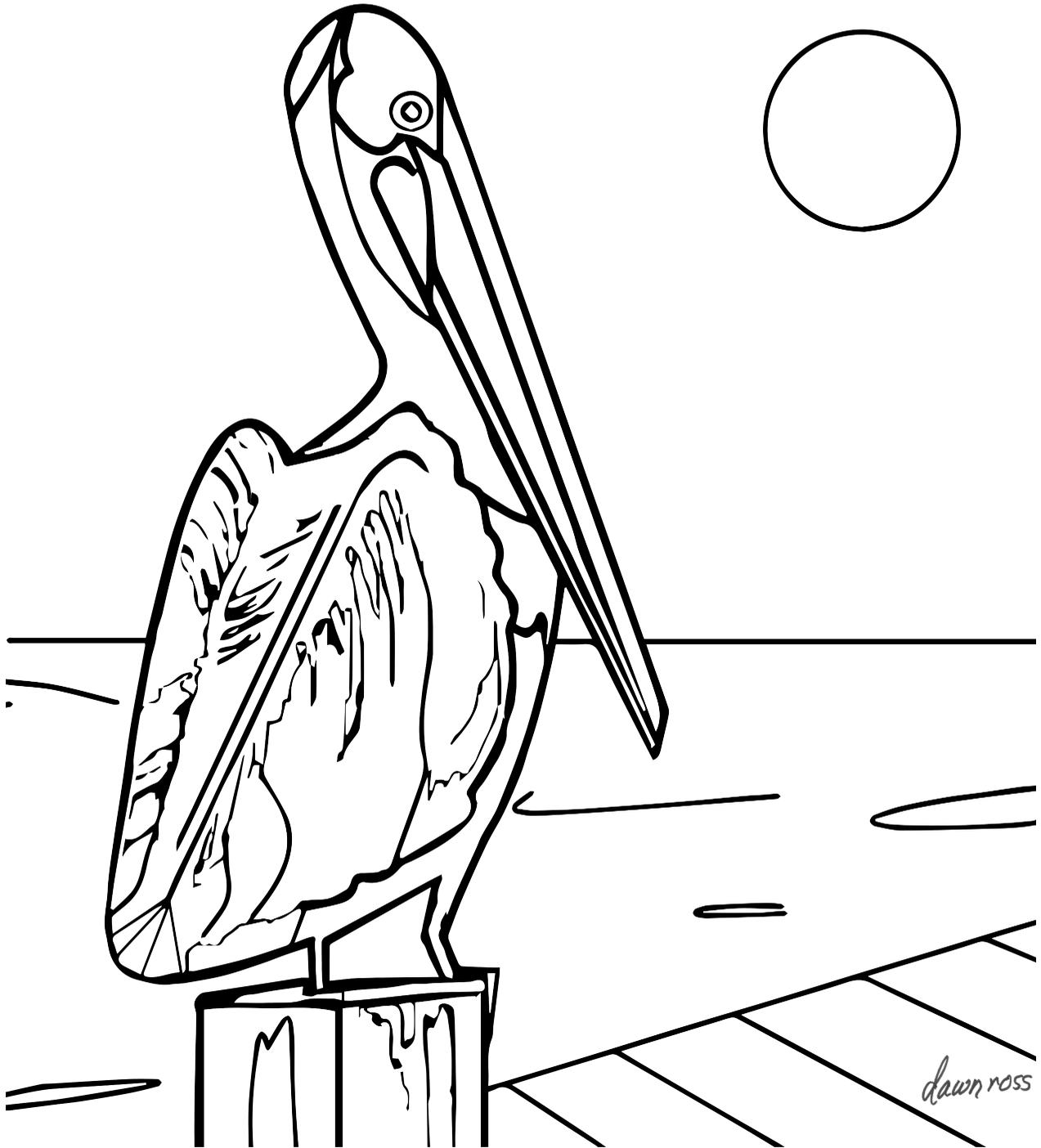
## State Musical Instrument: “Cajun” Accordion



*dawn ross*

Louisiana’s official musical instrument, the diatonic accordion, commonly known as the “Cajun” accordion, was adopted in 1990. The diatonic accordion with a single row of reeds and buttons was the first accordion developed. This specific type of accordion is called a melodeon and began to arrive in Louisiana via German immigrants during the mid 1870s. Cajuns could not obtain the melodeons after World War II, and they began to make copies of the German models themselves.

## State Bird: Brown Pelican



The brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) became Louisiana's official bird on July 27, 1966. It nests from South Carolina to Brazil and are famous for their large bill, the lower portion of which has a pouch which may be greatly extended. The birds use their pouches to scoop up their food from salt water. Average consumption of a one-month old pelican is five pounds of fish per day.

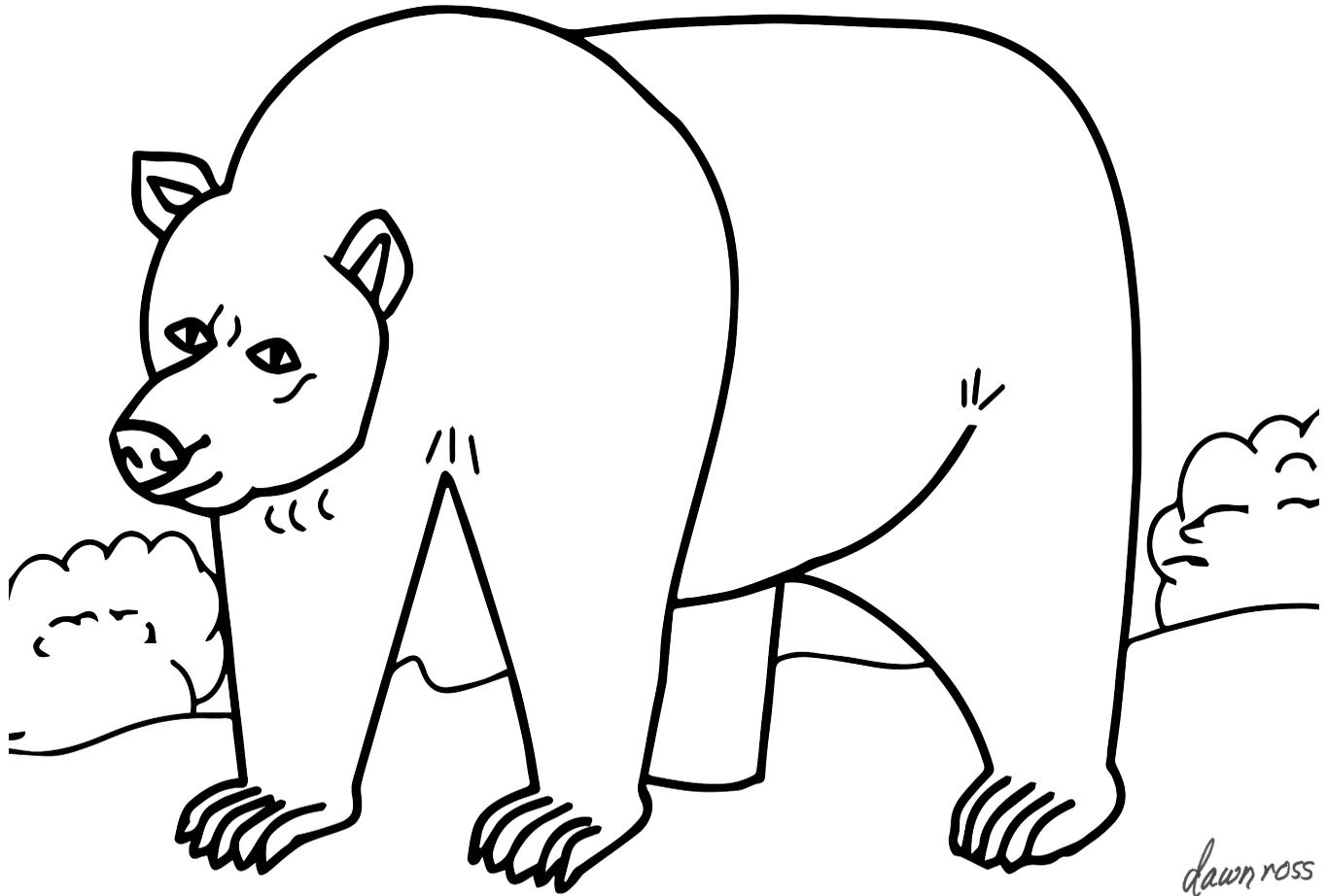
## State Tree: Bald Cypress



Half of Louisiana is timbered with an abundance of varied and beautiful trees, but no action was taken to designate a state tree until 1963 when the bald cypress (*taxodium distichum*) was made the official tree of Louisiana. The cypress grows in many areas of the state, particularly the swampy areas.

Its shape depends greatly on the amount and duration of flooding in the area and varies from columnar to conical or bottle shaped. The bark is reddish-brown, fibrous, thin and divided into small, flat ridges and shallow furrows. Leaves of the cypress tree spread in flat planes in a feathery pattern on its branchlets.

## State Mammal: Black Bear



In 1992, the Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) became the state's official state mammal, the same year it was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Black in color, some with distinct white blazes on their chests, it is one of 16 unique subspecies of the American black bear. These bears typically inhabit dense woodlands along the Tensas, Black and Atchafalaya Rivers. Today, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries works with other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to protect black bears in Louisiana with recent research indicating a population of more than 500 statewide.

## State Insect: Honeybee



*dawn ross*

The honeybee (*apis mellifera*) is a social, honey-producing bee, recognized as the most economically valuable of all insects. This reputation commonly rests on its production of honey and beeswax. The honeybee's greatest usefulness, however, is actually in the pollination of crops and many uncultivated plants that prevent erosion by keeping topsoil from being carried into the ocean. The honeybee was made our official insect in 1977.

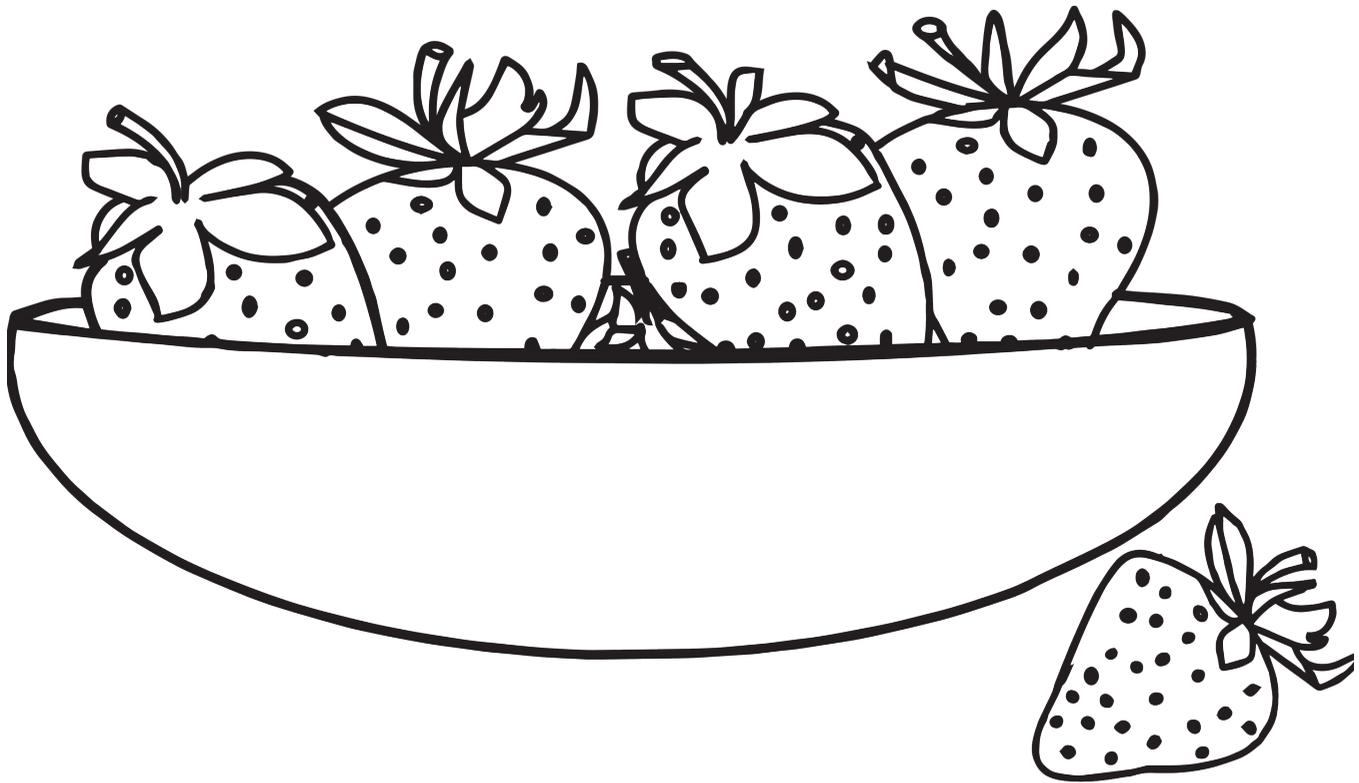
## State Dog: Catahoula Leopard



*dawn ross*

The Catahoula Leopard dog is the only breed of dog native to Louisiana and became our official state dog in 1979. This hound is a cross of a domestic dog the Indians of the Catahoula Lake region raised and a Spanish “war dog” that came through the area in the early 1500s. The dog has glassy eyes, webbed feet and spotted coat. Catahoulas are gentle with children, loyal to family and aggressive to strangers making them good pets and guard dogs. As a hunting dog, they are diligent, dependable, efficient and especially good at tracking deer, racoons and squirrels.

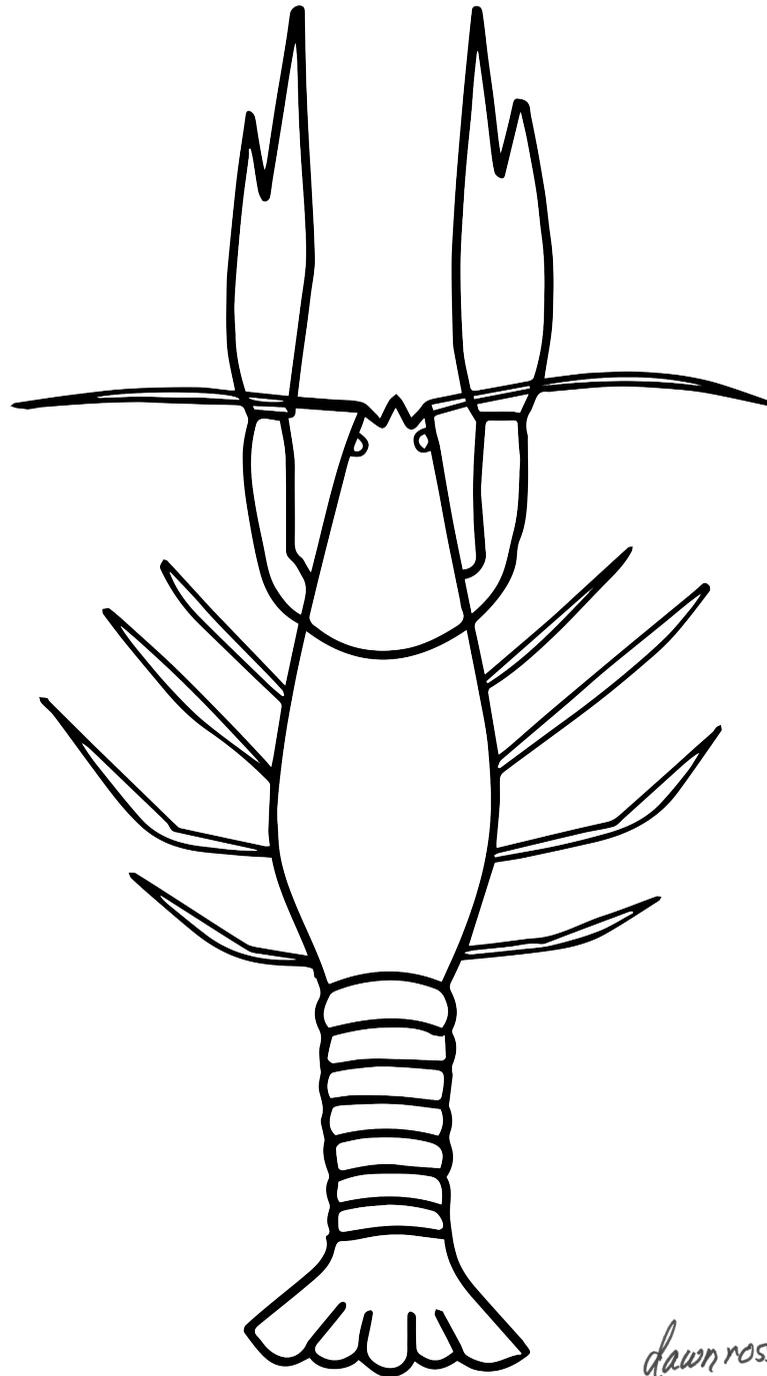
## State Fruit: Strawberry



*dawn ross*

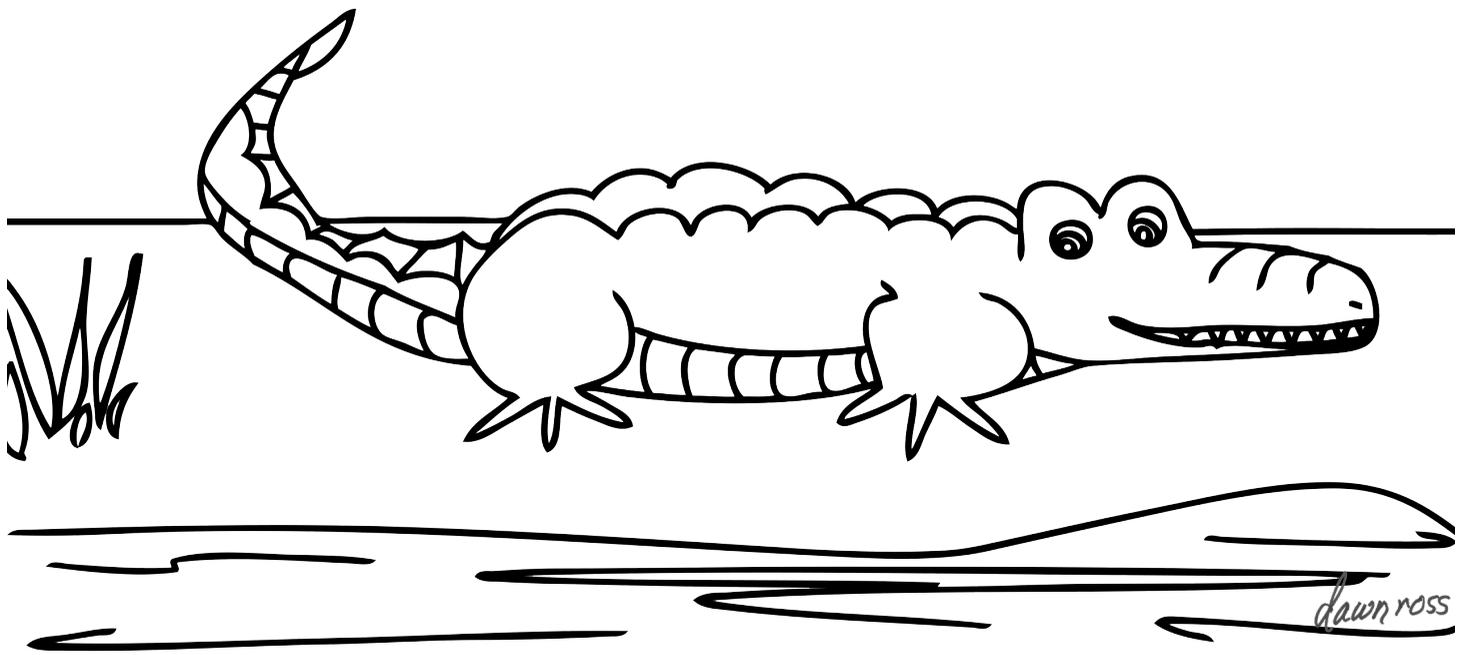
The 2001 Louisiana Legislature selected the strawberry as the official state fruit. Ponchatoula, located in Tangipahoa Parish, is considered the strawberry capital of Louisiana. The annual festival attracts 300,000 festival goers to the small town of 5,000.

## State Crustacean: Crawfish



South Louisiana is the crawfish capital of the world, supporting a multimillion dollar industry. The crawfish, in appearance, greatly resembles the lobster, but is much smaller. Its color varies with the water in which it lives and its variety.

## State Reptile: Alligator



The alligator was adopted as Louisiana's state reptile in 1983. It lives in the waters and low lands of the state and other locations of the southeast United States. Resembling a lizard in shape, grown males, larger than females, reach a length of 11 to 12 feet and weigh 450 to 500 pounds. When grown, its color is dull gray and dark olive.

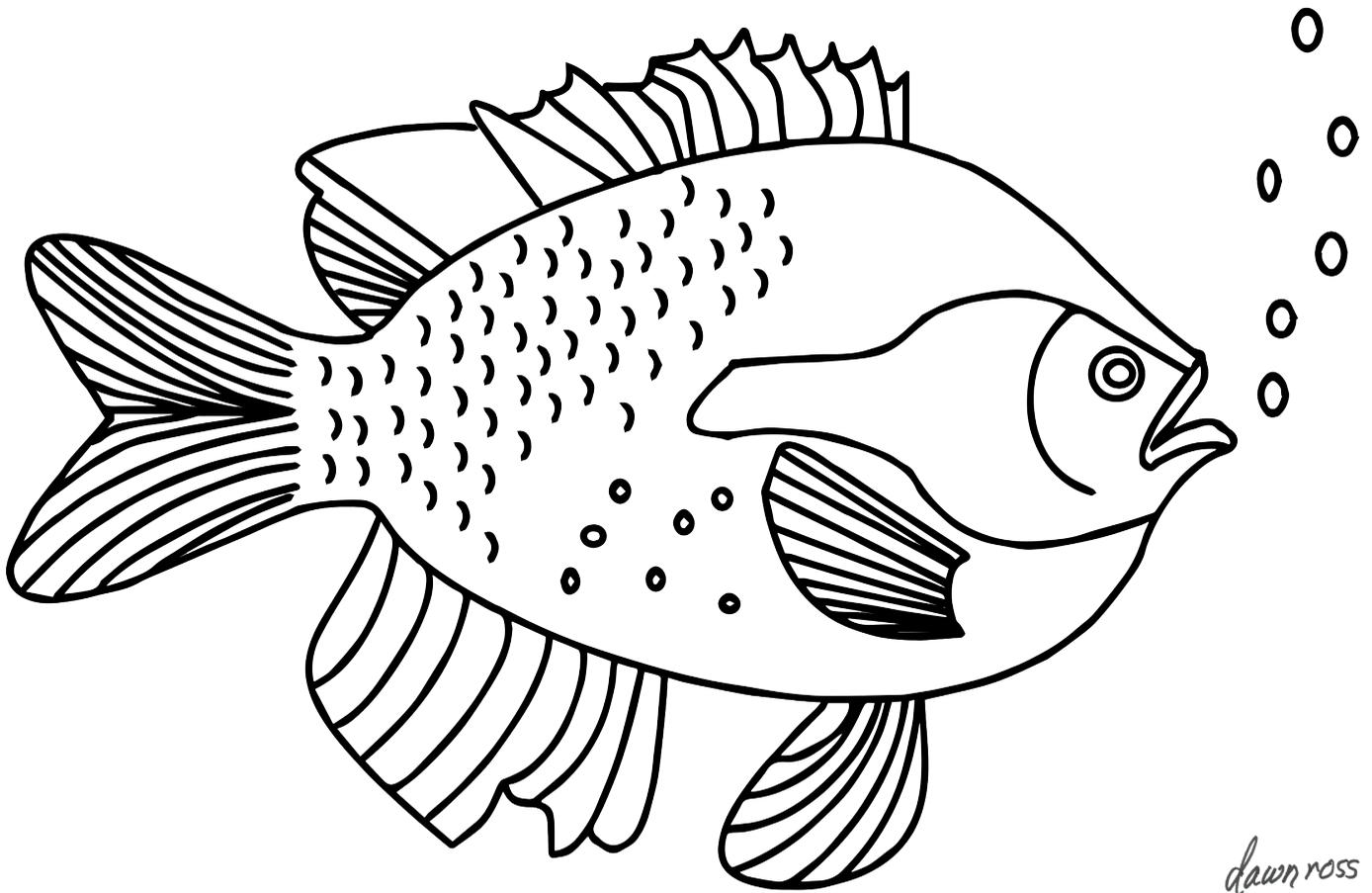
Alligators provide better care for their young than most reptiles do, protecting their young for one year or more. Once common, their numbers were reduced enough to be classified as endangered. Regulated hunting is allowed since the designation was changed to threatened in 1977.

## State Amphibian: Green Tree Frog



Adopted in 1993, Louisiana's state amphibian is the green tree frog (*Hyla cinerea*) and is also known as the fried bacon frog, cowbell frog and the bell frog. Green tree frogs live in swamps, borders of lakes and bayous on floating vegetation, in trees and bushes near water, in Spanish moss or under bark on trees. They can often be found clinging on windows or window sills at night looking for insects that are attracted to light. They can reach lengths of up to 10 centimeters, and their color is usually green, but changes frequently. It has a cream-colored stripe with dark borders extending along the sides and a dark stripe down the back. Besides being Louisiana's official amphibian, the green tree frog is the basis for "The Muppets" Kermit the Frog.

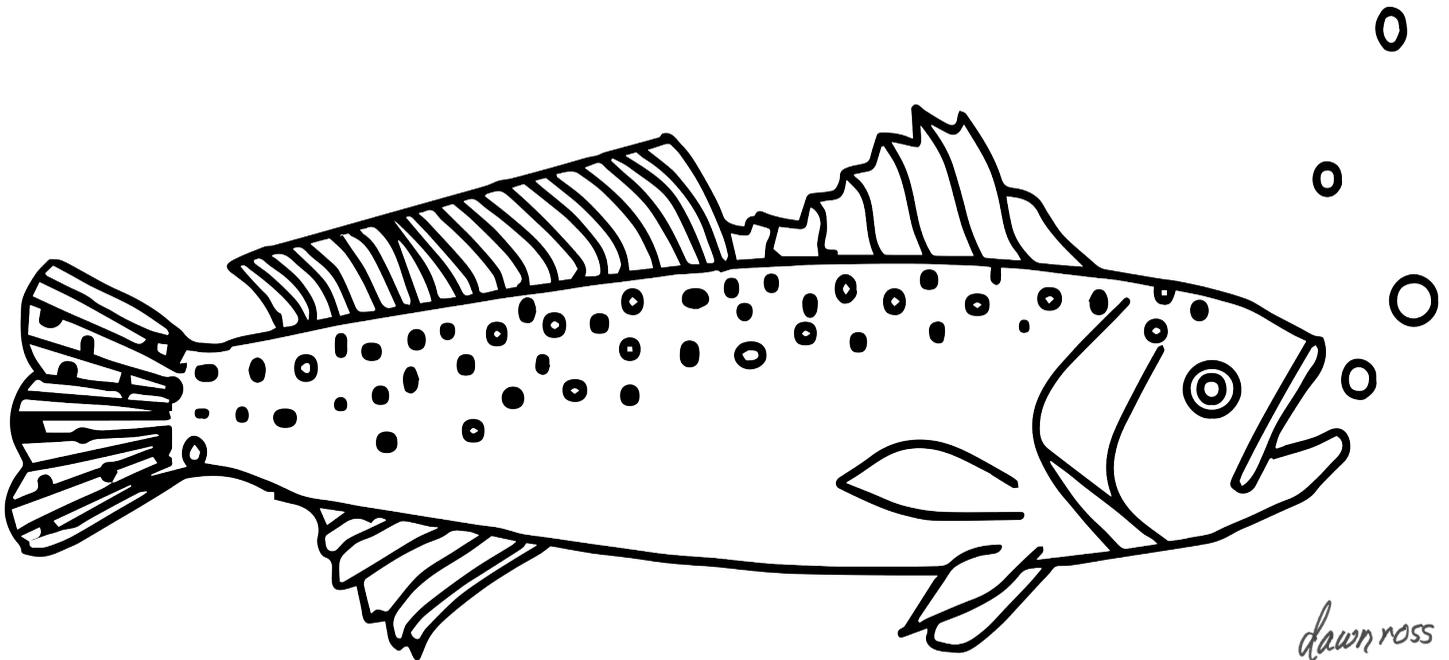
## State Freshwater Fish: Sac-au-lait



Also adopted in 1993, the sac-au-lait (*pomoxis annularis*) is Louisiana's state freshwater fish. The sac-au-lait, also known as white perch and white crappie, is translated from Cajun French to English as sack of milk.

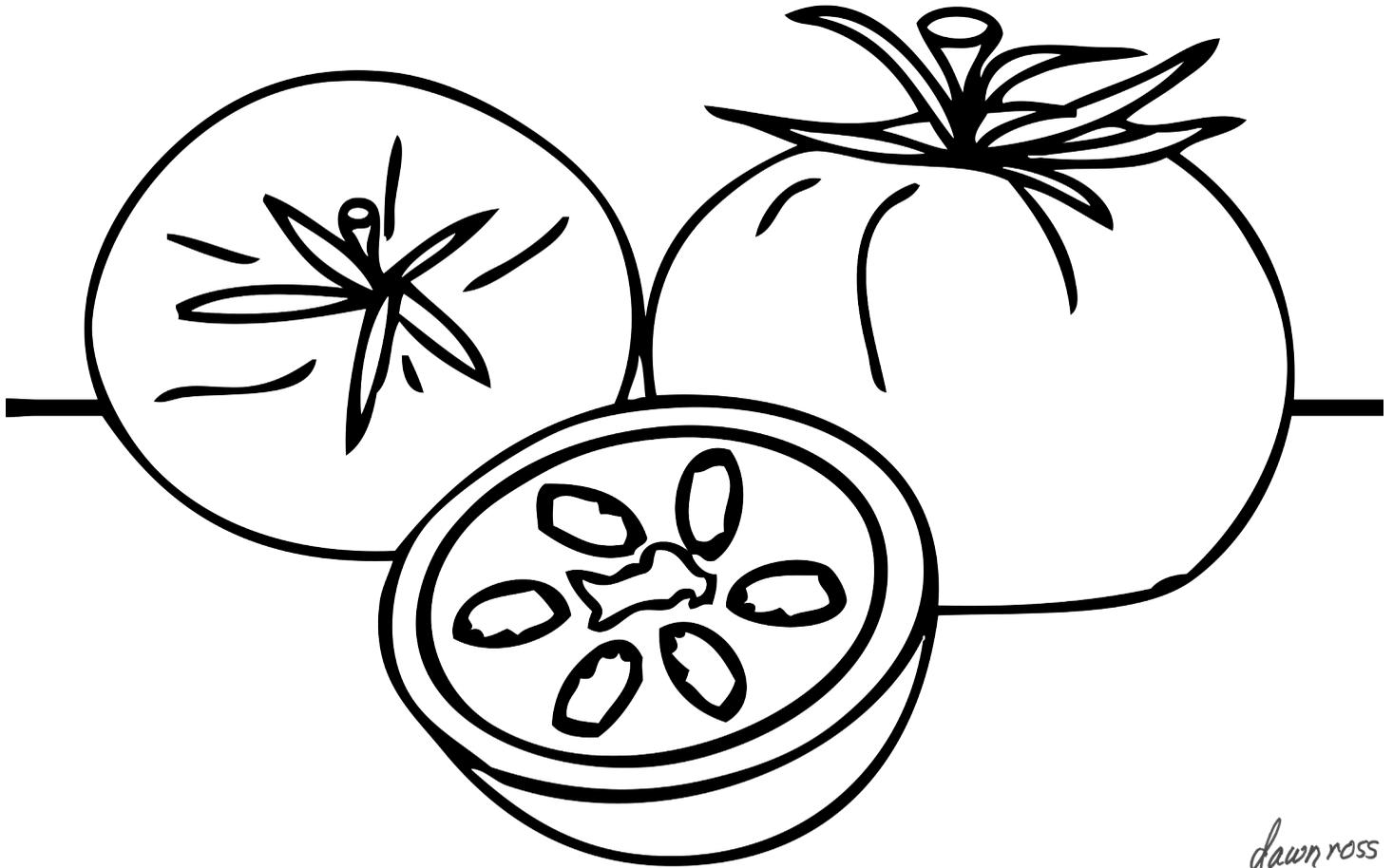
Two species, black and white, exist in Louisiana, often found in the same waters although each has specific preferences. Black crappie prefer clear, still lakes or back-swamp waters while white crappie prefer the moving water of rivers and bayous.

## State Saltwater Fish: Speckled Trout



In 2001, the speckled trout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*), or spotted sea trout, was named Louisiana's official saltwater fish. The speckled trout is a common fish found in the southern United States along the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Ocean. While most are caught on shallow, grassy flats, they also live in any inshore waters. Contrary to its name, the speckled trout is not a member of the trout family, but of the drum family.

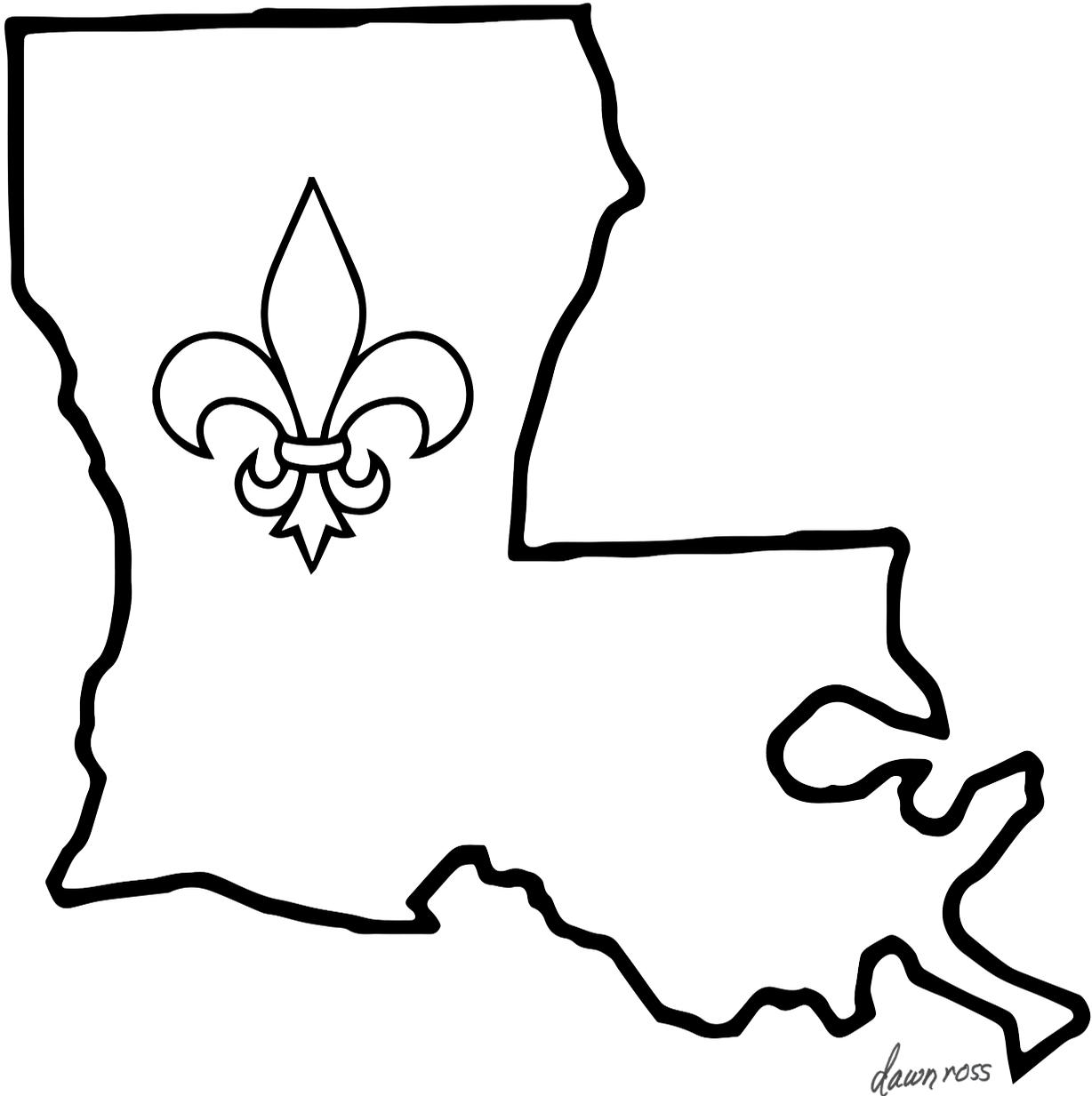
## State Vegetable Plant: Creole Tomato



*dawn ross*

For Louisianians, summer is not summer without Creole tomatoes. Named the state's official vegetable plant in 2003, Creole tomatoes are relatively late to ripen, but are meatier than other varieties of tomatoes. These tomatoes are tolerant of heat and humidity, a necessity in south Louisiana, and resist cracking. Historically, Creole tomatoes are grown in St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes.

## State Symbol: Fleur-de-lis



The fleur-de-lis was adopted as Louisiana's official state symbol by the Legislature in 2008. Rooted in French culture, the stylized lily is used as a decorative design derived from the yellow, six-petaled lillies and the way they bend. Fleurs-de-lis are commonly used in Louisiana on apparel, in architecture and most notably, as the logo of the New Orleans Saints.

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