

Cirsium arvense - Weedy Forb Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation [Provisional]

COMMON NAME Canada Thistle - Weedy Forb Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM Great Plains Weedy Meadows
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Perennial forb vegetation (V.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar perennial forb vegetation (V.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (V.B.2.N)
FORMATION Tall temperate or subpolar perennial forb vegetation (V.B.2.N.a)
ALLIANCE (CIRSIIUM ARVENSE, EUPHORBIA ESULA, MELILOTUS SPP.) - MIXED FORBS
HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM

GLOBAL RANGE

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This type is generally widely distributed throughout Theodore Roosevelt NP, especially in the South Unit. It usually occurs as small patches (< 0.5 ha) on the toeslopes of draws and small depressions on north and east facing slopes.

Globally

This type is widely naturalized in the northern United States and Canada.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Patches of *Cirsium arvense* occur throughout Theodore Roosevelt NP in a wide variety of habitats independent of disturbance.

Globally

Stands occur on a variety of open disturbed habitats, including pastures, ditches, bottomlands, and waste areas (Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
----------------	----------------

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Cirsium arvense

Globally

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

The density and cover of *Cirsium arvense* is high with very few native species found within infested sites. Plant height on the more mesic sites approaches 1 m.

Globally

The vegetation is dominated by medium-tall (0.5 - 1 m) forbs. The dominant forb is *Cirsium arvense*, a naturalized species from Eurasia (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Other weedy species may occur as well, but native species are generally less than 10% cover. Native species may include mixed-grass prairie grasses, such as *Pascopyrum smithii* and *Stipa comata*, as well as others.

CONSERVATION RANK GW. This type is widely naturalized from Eurasia across the northern United States and Canada, where it has invaded on disturbed areas (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). It is not planted by humans.

DATABASE CODE CEGL005260

SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS

COMMENTS

This type could be defined very broadly to include almost any *Cirsium arvense* dominated stand, in which case the variability of the

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

minor species associated with the type may be very high.

REFERENCES