

Poa pratensis - (Pascopyrum smithii) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME Kentucky Bluegrass - (Western Wheatgrass) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION Medium-tall bunch temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.d)
ALLIANCE POA PRATENSIS SEMI-NATURAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM

RANGE

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This type is widespread throughout Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It is probably best developed in the toeslopes of upland draws and drainages (Trammel 1994).

Globally

This type is potentially widespread throughout the Great Plains and into the Midwest, depending on how the type is defined.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This community is usually found on deep, well developed, fine textured soils that are topographically situated as to receive supplemental moisture in the form of runoff from adjacent slopes. This type is also common in situations where snow may accumulate or where snowmelt may be delayed somewhat in the spring. Such conditions exist in the toeslopes of upland draws and drainages, and in shallow depressions on north and east facing nearly level slopes. The development of this community in Theodore Roosevelt NP appears to be independent of disturbance.

Globally

This type can occur in a wide variety of human-disturbed and native habitats.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Poa pratensis</i>

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Graminoid	<i>Poa pratensis</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Poa pratensis

Globally

Pascopyrum smithii, *Poa pratensis*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Foliar cover in this community is usually > 75% and the herbaceous vegetation is less than 0.5 in height. The dominant species is *Poa pratensis*. A wide variety of secondary species can be found in association with *P. pratensis* depending upon habitat. In the toeslopes of draws, *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* and *Carex sprengei* are common constituents of the community. *Nasella viridula* and *Pascopyrum smithii* are the usual associates in the upland depressions in addition to *S. occidentalis*.

Globally

The vegetation is dominated by medium-tall (0.5 - 1 m) graminoids. The dominant grass is *Poa pratensis*, considered to be both a native and naturalized species from Eurasia (Great Plains Flora Association 1986, Gleason and Cronquist 1991). Other native species may occur as well, but they 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.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

CONSERVATION RANK GW. This is primarily a naturalized type from Europe and Asia, widely planted for lawns and pasture, and it has escaped into a variety of habitats (Great Plains Flora Association 1986, Gleason and Cronquist 1991). Although native populations do exist, and may be integral parts of some prairie and other native habitats, most stands that are thoroughly dominated by *Poa pratensis* are a result of human modifications to the habitat.

DATABASE CODE CEGL005265

COMMENTS

REFERENCES

- Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. 910 pp.
- Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence. 1392 pp.
- Trammell, M.A. 1994. Exotic plants of Theodore Roosevelt National Park: Extent, distribution, and ecological impact. M.A. Thesis. University of South Dakota. Vermillion, SD.