

**PRISM**  
(New York Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)  
**NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM**

PRISM: Long Island Invasive Species Management Area

Scientific name: Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop. (C. setosum, C. incanum, Carduus arvensis, Serratula arvensis & all varieties of C. arvense). USDA Plants Code: CIAR4

Common names: Creeping thistle, Californian thistle, Canada thistle, field thistle

Native Distribution: Eurasia

Date Assessed: April 28, 2009

PRISM Assessors: Gerry Moore

PRISM Reviewers: LIISMA SRC

Date Approved: May 13, 2009 Form version date: 13 April 2009

New York Relative Maximum score: 71.00 Date NY assessment approved: May 13, 2009

New York State Invasive Rank: High

**SUMMARY OF PRISM RANKING RESULTS:**

**Distribution:** Widespread

**Estimated number of infested sites:** >25

**PRISM Invasiveness Rank<sup>§</sup>:** High



**A. DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE (KNOWN/POTENTIAL):**

1. What is the species distribution and abundance in the PRISM?

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| A. Not present   | Not Present |
| B. Occurs in three or fewer natural areas (locations that are at least ¼ mile apart) with no infested area* >1 acre or containing >100 individuals | Restricted  |
| C. Present in 4–10 natural areas, or with one occupied location >1 acre or containing >100 individuals   | Common      |
| D. Present in >10 minimally managed areas  | Widespread  |
| U. Unknown   | Unknown     |

Answer: Widespread

Describe distribution:  
Documented from 25 sites on Long Island and Staten Island since 1980; mostly in disturbed areas.  
Sources of information:  
Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009.

<sup>§</sup>Not Assessable: not persistent in the PRISM, or not found outside of cultivation.

\*Definition of “infested area” is the “...actual or percentage of land occupied by [canopy cover of] weed plants” NAWMA (North American Weed Management Association) 2002. North American Invasive Plant Mapping Standards (see <http://www.nawma.org/>).

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2. What is the likelihood the species will occur (if not yet present) or expand its distribution and abundance (if already present) in the PRISM?

Answer: Moderately likely

Documentation (e.g.: history of establishment in PRISM, suitability of habitats and climate, distribution models, literature, expert opinions):

Current and historical distributions on Long Island/Staten Island suggest that this species is mostly confined to disturbed areas in the Long Island PRISM.

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009.

**B. INVASIVENESS RANK IN THE PRISM:**

Is the species distribution Widespread or Common?

Yes: Go to column A in table below.

No: What is the likelihood of species occurrence or expansion? Answer:  

- Very Likely:                      Use column A below
- Moderately likely:            Use column B below
- Unlikely:                         Use column C below
- Zero likelihood                 Invasive potential Insignificant
- Unknown                         Invasive potential Unknown
- Not assessed                     Invasive potential not assessed

Assign a PRISM invasiveness rank to the species based on its New York Relative Maximum Score, using the designated column in the table below.

New York Relative Maximum Score	New York Invasiveness Rank	A	B	C
> 80.00	Very High	VH	H	M
70.00–80.00	High	H	M	L
50.00–69.99	Moderate	M	L	Ins
40.00–49.99	Low	L	Ins	Ins
<40.00	Insignificant	Ins	Ins	Ins

**Column used: A (Insert PRISM Invasiveness Rank on page 1)**

**References for species assessment:**

Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 2009. AILANTHUS database. [Accessed on 6 May 2009].

**Citation:** This ranking form for regions within NYS may be cited as: Jordan, M.J., G. Moore and T.W. Weldy. 2008. Invasiveness ranking system for non-native plants of New York. Unpublished. The Nature Conservancy, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY; The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY. Note that the order of authorship is alphabetical; all three authors contributed substantially to the development of this protocol.

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