

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

PRISM: Long Island Invasive Species Management Area

Scientific name: Cyperus difformis L. USDA Plants Code: CYDI  
 Common names: Variable flatsedge  
 Native Distribution: Southern Europe, Asia, Africa  
 Date Assessed: 20 July 2009  
 PRISM Assessors: Gerry Moore  
 PRISM Reviewers: LIISMA SRC  
 Date Approved: September 9, 2009 Form version date: 13 April 2009  
 New York Relative Maximum score: 51.95 Date NY assessment approved: Sept. 9, 2009  
 New York State Invasive Rank: Moderate

**SUMMARY OF PRISM RANKING RESULTS:**

**Distribution:** Restricted  
**Estimated number of infested sites:** ca. 1  
**PRISM Invasiveness Rank<sup>§</sup>:** Moderate



**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: Restricted

Describe distribution:  
 Specimen collected in 2002 from Queens at BBG. Other specimens recently collected from New Jersey. Author has seen this species at several sites in New Jersey in recent years. Appears to be rapidly spreading.

Sources of information:  
 Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009.

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

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\*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/>).

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: Very likely

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

Already present in LIISMA.

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

- 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 July 20, 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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