

CIRSIUM CAROLINIANUM
(Walt.) Fern. & Schub.
Carolina Thistle

FAMILY: Asteraceae (Compositae).

HABIT: Biennial herb to 1.5 m.; flowering May, June; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This is the only Ohio thistle with a combination of few cauline leaves, tomentose beneath, and small heads on naked peduncles. It is also the earliest *Cirsium* to bloom in Ohio. Non-flowering material cannot be identified with certainty from young plants of *C. altissimum*.

TOTAL RANGE: S. OH to the mountains of NC, GA, and AL, w. to MO and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Lawrence, Scioto, and Vinton Counties. There are pre-1980 records from Franklin, Madison, and Pike counties.

HABITAT: Dry, open to semi-open situations, usually in acid, often sandy, soil: upland woods, bluffs, ravines, and thickets.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good. Ohio populations occur in areas that have undergone moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: When in bloom, it is unlikely to be overlooked or misidentified. The blooming period, however, is rather brief. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. xv + 261 p.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.



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