

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



## *Cirsium lecontei* – Le Conte’s thistle Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G2G3

	1	2	3	4	5
State		■			
Global		■	■		
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC

### Recognition:

- A perennial thistle, 0.4 to 1.2 m tall
- Plants often unbranched or sparingly branched, with single, terminal flower heads that are well-exserted above the foliage
- Stem and lower leaf surfaces with cob webby hairs (loosing hairs and becoming glabrate with age)
- Mid-stem leaves to 15 cm long, pinnately lobed; leaves gradually reduced in size up the stem
- Corollas are pinkish-purple with feather-like pappus bristles (modified sepals)



**Flowering Time:** July to October

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

### Wetland Indicator Status:

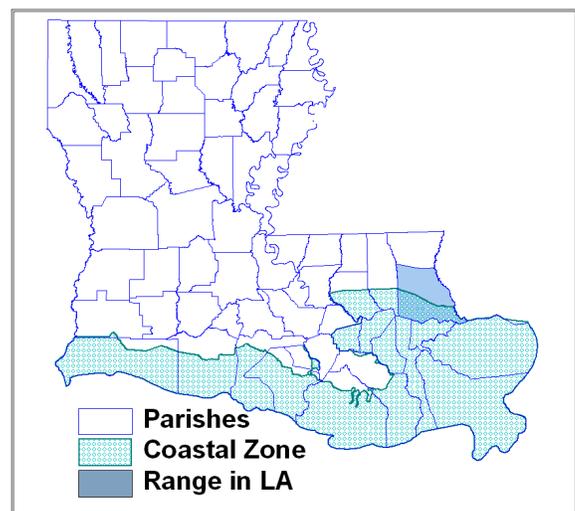
FACW – Usually occurs in wetlands

### Habitat:

Longleaf pine flatwoods savannahs.

### Threats:

- Conversion of habitat to pine plantation (including site prep activities such as bedding and herbicides)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate fire timing
- Commercial and residential development

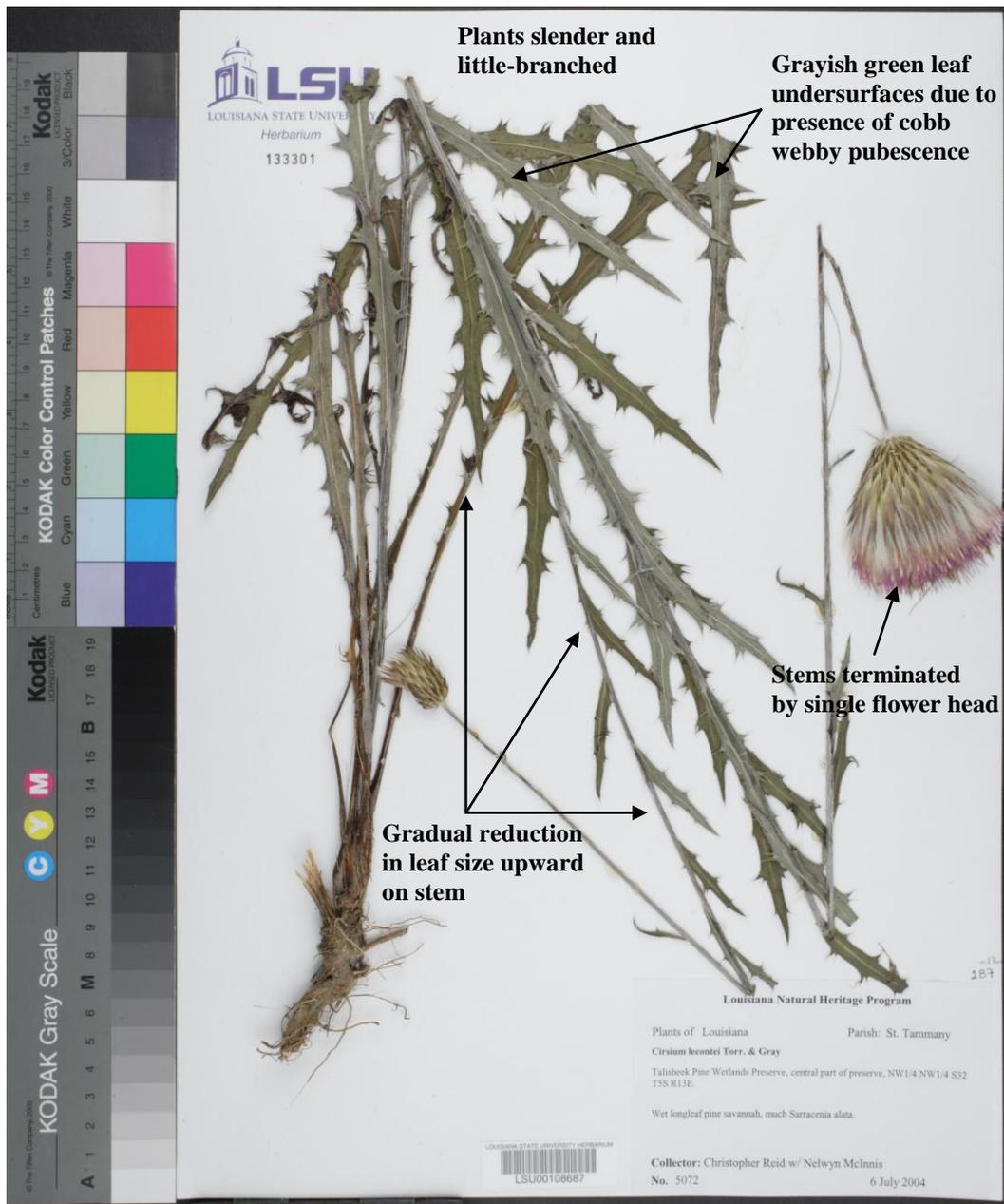


### Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prescribed burning, especially during growing season (May to June)
- Thinning of densely-stocked timber (during very dry periods) and maintenance of open stands

**LA River Basins:** Pearl, Pontchartrain

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Herbarium specimen of *Cirsium lecontei*. Courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

## References:

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NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Nelson, G. 2005. East Gulf Coastal Plain wildflowers. The Globe Pequot Press. Guilford, CT. 263 pp.

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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

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