

# Pampas

Pampas (*Cortaderia selloana*) and Purple Pampas (*Cortaderia jubata*)

Also known as: cutty grass

## Is Pampas on your property?

Pampas is listed in Horizons Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Site-led plant. This means the plant is widespread throughout the region and will only be controlled in and around significant high-value natural areas or other sites that are deemed to be at risk. If you see any sites where it is growing or can help with details of the plant, please contact us on freephone 0508 800 800.



Photograph supplied by: Carolyn Lewis

## Identification

Pampas is a large clump-forming grass growing to 4 metres and above. Leaf base smooth or sparsely hairy with no white waxy surface. Leaves are coloured blueish-green above and dark green below. Will snap readily when tugged. Dead leaf bases spiral like wood shavings. Flowerhead erect, dense, fluffy, white-pinkish and fading to dirty white from (January)-March-June. Purple pampas is also a large clump forming grass that can grow 3 metres and above. Leaf base is very hairy, with no white waxy surface. Both leaf surfaces are dark green and snap readily when tugged. Dead leaf bases spiral like wood shavings. Flower heads are erect, dense, uniform, fluffy, coloured bright purple and fading to dirty brown. Purple Pampas flowers from January to March.

Often confused with the native toetoe. Toetoe has leaves that are very difficult to rip across the leaf blade, and toetoe flowers in spring with wafting graceful seed heads.

## Weedy characteristics

Pampas species are very tolerant to heat and frost, salt, wind, wet and drought, moderate shade, most soils, low fertility. Highly invasive in wetlands, disturbed forests, scrubland, tussock-land, herb fields and coastal cliffs. Possesses a very high seeding and dispersal ability.

## Methods of dispersal

Seed dispersed mainly by wind over very long distances and occasionally water dispersal. Also by soil movement, dumped vegetation, contaminated forestry machinery, clothing and animal pelts.

## Typical habitats

Forest light gaps, slips, margins, disturbed sites, open habitats, riverbeds, cliffs, inshore and offshore islands, tussockland, fernland, herbfield, duneland, coastline, gumlands, salt marsh, estuaries, shrublands.

## Control

1. Dig small plants. Mulch or compost.
2. Weed wiper: glyphosate 20% + penetrant. All year round.
3. Spray (most sites): Gallant + crop oil, label rates. Summer-autumn.
4. Spray dense sites (non-target damage unlikely): glyphosate + penetrant, label rates. Summer-autumn. Pure, tall stands can be slashed and regrowth sprayed to get better coverage and reduce herbicide needed.

## Site management

Ascertain that the species is not toetoe (look for erect seed heads in autumn). Always use most selective methods. Plan for increased fire risk after control. Do not burn at any stage. Pampas recedes as shade increases, so encourage the replacement by planting suitable shade producing species.).

## Species recovery

Profusely reseed bare and sprayed sites. Grazed plants will resprout.

**For more information freephone 0508 800 800.**

