

Purple Pampas

(Cortaderia jubata)

Is Purple pampas on your property?

Purple Pampas is included in Horizon's Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy as a Regional Surveillance plant. This means that the plant could become a problem if it gets out of hand. Horizons welcomes any information about the occurrence and characteristics of this plant. 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.



Unless otherwise stated, the photos used in this publication have been sourced from the world wide web. Copyright approval has been sought where possible and appropriate.

Identification

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.

Weedy characteristics

Purple Pampas is able to tolerate a wide range of conditions: heat, frost, salt, wind, wet and drought, moderate shade, most soils, low fertility. Will recover quickly after fire. Seeds widely dispersed.

Methods of dispersal

Seed dispersed by wind over long distances, with occasional water dispersal. Also by soil movement, dumped vegetation, contaminated forestry machinery, clothing, or animal pelts.

Impact on indigenous plants

Becomes dense quickly when colonised. Will replace groundcover, shrubs and ferns. Creates a fire hazard but also a habitat for possums and rats.

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 and shrublands. Anywhere grazing is excluded.

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 occasionally be slashed and regrowth sprayed to get better coverage and reduce herbicide needed.

Site management

Establish 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 weed replacement (planting, regeneration). Control regrowth with cattle grazing.

Species recovery

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

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

