



Weed Management Information

Pampas grass

Botanical name: *Cortaderia* species

Weed Class: Class 4 noxious weed

Legal requirements: The growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that reduces its numbers, spread and incidence and continuously inhibits its reproduction.

Control options

Control of pampas grass depends on the site on which it occurs and the potential risk for causing new infestations. Permanent mechanical removal is recommended wherever possible.

Chemical control: Use a herbicide that is registered for use on pampas grass in NSW and in a manner and rate stated on the label (or a current pesticide order). Seek advice from a Council Vegetation Officer or your herbicide supplier. Please ensure the chosen product is suitable for the designated land use and situation. Please observe all environmental and safety cautions that are stated on the label.

Mechanical control: Grubbing of plants, particularly when small, is the best method of control in urban and bushland areas. This can be difficult with large plants because of their extensive root system and the abrasive nature of the leaves.

Fire: Alternatively, the plant can be burnt (if local conditions allow), allowed to recover, and any new growth sprayed with a recommended herbicide.

Description

Pampas grass is a large long-lived perennial tussock over 2m high with prolific fluffy seed heads (up to 3 m high). It is common in open sunny places with damp soils and on disturbed sites.

Leaves: Sharp, cutting bluish-green leaves 1-2 m long.

Flowers: Occur in summer, developing well above the foliage in two sex forms on separate plants - white fluffy females and yellow, pale pink or pale mauve, almost hairless bisexuals. Each plume produces up to 100,000 seeds in late summer/autumn, and up to 50 plumes can occur per mature tussock.

Dispersal: Seed is windborne and can travel many kilometres. It is also spread from plants dumped into bushland and along stream banks.

Habitats: Pampas grass appears to have no particular habitat preference, and is found in a wide range of ecosystems. It prefers open, sunny conditions, but also does particularly well in wetter conditions, making mangrove areas along rivers and inlets and wet disturbed heathlands especially vulnerable to infestation. Common sites of infestation are roadsides, road cuttings, quarry faces, sand dunes, mine spoil, new forest plantations and bushland. It can thrive in low-fertility situations and also tolerates waterlogged conditions.



Pink pampas grass

Photos: JMiles and M Campbell



Common pampas grass

For further information: Councils Vegetation Officers Ph: (02) 6499 2222

Helpful websites www.southeastweeds.org.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds

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