

# Pampas

*Cortaderia* species

- Large, perennial, tussock-forming grasses growing over 2m.
- Leaves are finely serrated on the edges, bright green with prominent central vein. Dead leaves at the base of the plant, spiral like wood shavings.
- Dense, fluffy, white or pink flowerheads extend well above the height of the tussock.
- Pink pampas grass flowers from Jan to late March, whereas common pampas grass flowers from mid-March to late May.



Leaves

Flowerheads



**Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019**

## REMOVING PAMPAS

### BY HAND

- Small pampas can be removed manually by hand-pulling or digging out the entire plant with a mattock. Ensure all root material is removed otherwise regrowth may occur.
- Manually removed pampas can be left upside down with roots exposed to die.
- To prevent the spread of seed, remove any flowerheads and ensure they are placed inside two sealed bags and disposed of in general waste.
- Do not dispose of pampas via green waste.
- Larger plants can be slashed, and the regrowth treated with herbicide.

Chemical control of pampas can be achieved by application of glyphosate-based herbicides. As glyphosate is non-selective, application of grass-selective herbicides (eg. Fusilade) for pampas growing in bushland amongst native shrubs may be more appropriate.

## IMPACTS

Pampas can rapidly invade a range of vegetation types from coastal scrub to closed wet forest, where it readily outcompetes native vegetation. This highly invasive species is problematic for many industries such as forestry and communication networks, and can make access along roads, walking tracks and recreation areas difficult. In the wider landscape, pampas is highly flammable and poses a significant fire hazard.

## HOW IT SPREADS

Pampas reproduce mainly by seed, producing large quantities that can be windblown for distances of up to 25 km. Plants can produce up to 100,000 seeds per flower head, with each plant producing multiple flower spikes.

Pampas can also reproduce from root fragments when moved on dirty equipment during cultivation, or when pampas material is dumped in green waste and allowed to regrow.