

# Pampas

*Pampas (Cortaderia species)*

- Two species of pampas are found in Kingborough: *Cortaderia selloana* (common pampas grass) and *Cortaderia jubata* (pink pampas grass). For practical purposes they are collectively referred to as 'pampas'
- Pampas are large, perennial, tussock-forming grasses which can grow to over 2 metres.
- Leaves are finely serrated on the edges, bright green, with a prominent central vein. The dead leaves at the base of the plant spiral like wood shavings.
- Dense and fluffy flowerheads, either white or pink, extend well above the tussock.
- Pink pampas grass flowers from January to late March, whereas common pampas grass flowers from mid-March to late May.



*pink  
pampas  
in flower*



*common  
pampas  
in flower*



**Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019**

## REMOVING PAMPAS

Methods of control?

- 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 amongst shrubs may be more appropriate.

## IMPACTS

Pampas has the ability to outcompete native species in a wide range of vegetation types, ranging from coastal scrub to wet forests. Due to its highly invasive nature, it can impact roads, access to walking tracks and the use of recreational areas, causing issues for industry, land managers and the community. Pampas is highly flammable, and large infestations can also create an increased fire risk.

## HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

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

Pampas also has the ability to reproduce from root fragments. These fragments can be moved on dirty equipment, such as cultivation or earth moving equipment, or when pampas material is dumped in green waste.

# WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT PAMPAS?

## Pampas program stage 1

Pampas is a high priority weed in Kingborough and Council staff have been controlling all known pampas located on Council managed land for several years. Staff regularly inspect these sites and use a variety of control methods for any plants found. The control method used will depend on the size of the infestation, size of the plants, and the surrounding environment of where they were found.

## Pampas program stage 2

Council is now implementing the next stage of the pampas program. Based on Council's highly successful Paterson's curse program, this stage involves a number of approaches to ensure pampas is controlled across all land types and ownership, also known as tenures. Approaches include a more intensive awareness campaign, annual reminder letters to land owners, and inspections across all land tenures where appropriate, including private land.

The distribution of pampas within Kingborough requires this new phase to be rolled out in a staggered approach. Stage 2 will begin in the southern reaches of Kingborough, and when pampas is considered effectively controlled across all land tenures, the program will then expand to include another area of the municipality. This staggered rollout ensures resources are used in a prioritised and effective way, and that Council's strategic weed program can continue to deliver other high priority services.

## Gordon and surrounds

Council is now targeting small, isolated populations of pampas in Gordon and the surrounding areas, with the objective of eradication across all land tenures. Council officers will be undertaking inspections in this area and contacting landowners as required. We encourage all land landowners in the area to inspect their property and treat any pampas found. If you require assistance with identification or further advice on control methods, please contact Council's Natural Areas and Biodiversity team.

*pampas  
sprayed in  
native  
bushland*

*Council signage*



# WHAT HAPPENS IF COUNCIL LOCATE PAMPAS ON MY PROPERTY?

When Council locates pampas, land owners will continue to be notified and advised of best practice control methods. However, Council may also apply the Biosecurity Act 2019 where appropriate, including enforcement activities and requiring landowners to control pampas infestations within specified timeframes.

***Failure to comply with a notice has resulted in Council issuing infringements within the Paterson's curse program.*** This infringement carries a minimum of 5 penalty units for individuals and 10 penalty units for corporations and body corporates. The current penalty unit rate, as of February 2025, is \$202 per unit.

For more information about pampas, visit the Department of Natural Resource and Environment Tasmania website: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/pampas>