

pampas grass

Don't let them get away!

Invasive weeds are most effectively controlled when they and their numbers are small – a little weed control work today will save many days of work and dollars in years to come. Now is the time to take action!

Control that weed!

Pampas grass can be a persistent weed, and its successful long-term control is likely to involve the integration of a number of methods, including mechanical removal, herbicide application, grazing, and ongoing monitoring.

NOTE: Flower heads should be removed and securely double-bagged prior to works being undertaken.

Mechanical removal of entire plants is generally considered to be the most effective form of permanent pampas control. Plants are best removed after rain, when the ground is softer.

Small plants can be hand-pulled. With larger plants, removal is easier if the bulk of the leaves are removed before attempting to extract the roots. Care should be taken to remove all roots to prevent resprouting.

As young pampas plants are palatable to stock, in some situations, further regrowth may be controlled by grazing.

Chemical control of pampas grasses is a good option. Plants can be controlled through foliar application of an approved herbicide eg a glyphosate-based product. **Always read and follow the label**, wear protective equipment and avoid off-target damage during chemical control.

The best solution for your site will vary on the type and intensity of infestation – for advice and more details on control methods, consult the DPIPWE website (www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/weeds).

Do the right thing

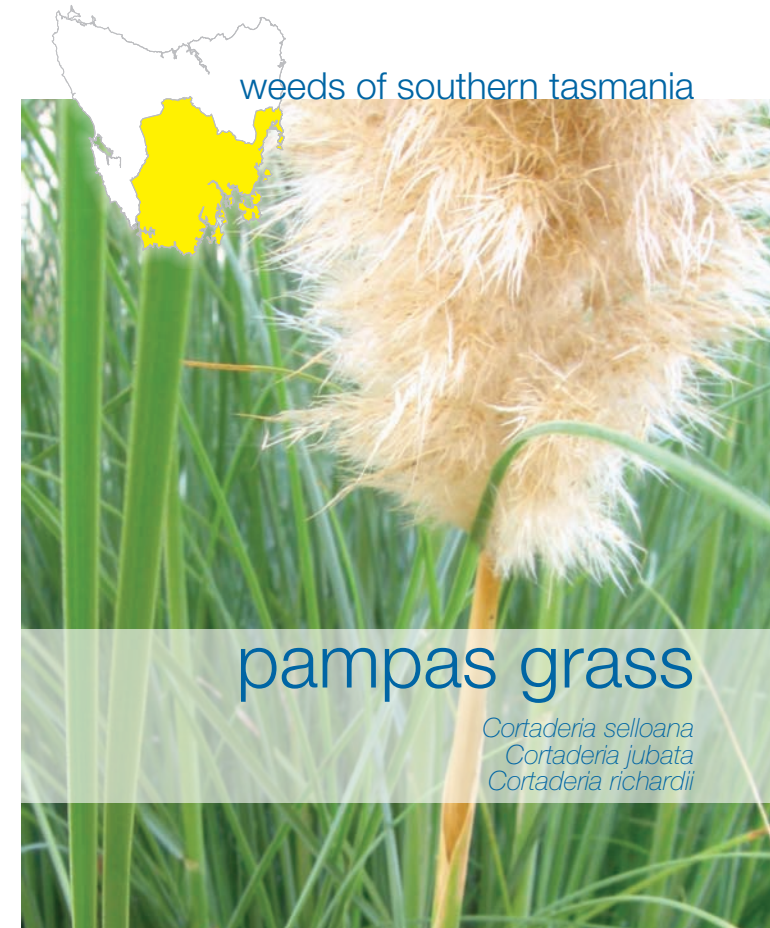
Weed waste dumped in bushland or local reserves gives pest plants a leg-up into new areas. Do the right thing, and dispose of your weed waste responsibly. Pampas flower heads should be separately double-bagged to other weed waste and burnt in a closed incinerator (to prevent seeds escaping).

Weeds are easily spread by contaminated machinery and people – check your clothes, shoes, vehicles and other machinery for soil or plant matter that could be carrying weedy plant seeds.

Get informed

Pampas grass is a significant weed threat for Southern Tasmania. For more information contact your local Council office or call the DPIPWE on 1300 368 550.

weeds of southern tasmania



pampas grass

Cortaderia selloana
Cortaderia jubata
Cortaderia richardii

Also known as

Pampas, Pink pampas grass, New Zealand Toe toe

Impacts

Biodiversity, agriculture, quarries, roadsides, disused areas & gardens

Current distribution in Southern Tasmania

Widespread across the region



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COUNTRY





weed warning

pampas grass



1



2



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Background

Pampas grasses (*Cortaderia species*) were introduced to Australia for use as garden plants, windbreaks and as a source of stock fodder.

The common pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) is by far the most widespread and prevalent in Tasmania, having been introduced to the State in the 1800s. Pink pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) was introduced much more recently – both of these pest plants hail from South America.

New Zealand toe toe (*Cortaderia richardii*) was also a recent introduction to Tasmania, and has become naturalised in the southwest of the State, where it threatens the World Heritage Area.

Pampas grasses are hardy perennial plants which tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. They do especially well in wet locations, and are often observed in disturbed areas; on roadsides, quarries, near settlements, in new plantations as well as in native bush, in sand dunes and along creeks and coastal areas. A few may still be found growing freely in gardens.

Producing flamboyant plumes of feathery flowers, pampas seeds are readily dispersed by water and wind. Each plume may produce up to 100,000 seeds, and these seeds can be carried by the wind up to 25km.

These grasses are aggressive invaders, swiftly establishing to squeeze out native species. They are highly flammable, and can constitute a serious fire hazard when established in large populations.

Get a positive ID

Tasmania's weedy pampas grasses may live for many years, and grow up to three metres in height. Once their flower spikes are considered, they may grow as tall as six metres. All pest pampas grasses have very long, slender leaves which are erect and arching towards the ends, with roughly serrated edges which can cause nasty cuts to the unwary weeder.

The common pampas grass (*C. selloana*) flowers from March through May, with flowers that are generally white, sometimes with a pink or mauvish tinge. The flowers of pink pampas grass (*C. jubata*) are a pale pink, darkening to brown as they age – this species flowers from January through to late March. New Zealand toe toe (*C. richardii*) sprouts straw to golden coloured flower spikes, which appear from October to January.

Weedy pampas grasses are occasionally mistaken for the native cutting grass *Gahnia grandis* – which is sometimes mistakenly called “black pampas”. The easiest way to tell the difference between native cutting grass and true pampas grasses is to look at the flower heads. The flower plumes of native cutting grass are light brown to almost black when older, and grow to contain visible seeds, that vary from a shiny red brown when young, to almost black when mature. The plumes of introduced pampas grasses are much lighter in colour, larger and do not produce these obviously visible seeds.

If you are uncertain whether or not a plant you have found is pampas grass, collect a sample of it in a sealed bag and contact your local Council office or a DPIPWE representative.

Weed management – it's your responsibility

Many people unwittingly harbour pest pampas grasses in their gardens – some even actively grow them, knowing nothing of their weedy ways.

All pampas grasses are declared weeds under Tasmania's *Weed Management Act 1999*. It is your responsibility under the Act to control pampas grass on your land. Failure to remove them from your property could result in legal action.

Despite being a declared weed, pampas grasses are occasionally sold in flower arrangements, helping these pest plants to expand their ranges. This is illegal, as is distributing the plant or its seeds in any other way, whether as cut flowers, in contaminated stock feed, on livestock or on dirty equipment. Please report any such occurrences to the DPIW.

Weeds are a growing problem.

Act now – make a plan and make a start!

Images:

1. 'Pig-tails' at the base of pampas grass
2. Common pampas grass (*C. selloana*) flower head
3. Pink pampas (*C. jubata*) flower head