

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)



Large seed heads are pink, white or purple

Pampas grass is a very tall (up to 4 m), clump-forming grass with cutting edges to the leaves, widespread especially in northern areas on roadsides, in waste places, scrubland and in pine plantations.

Pampas has leaves that are dark-green with hairs on the underside midrib, and bluish-green on the upper side. The large, showy seed heads are pink, white or purple, and appear from February to late May.

The seeds are spread by wind, water and contaminated soil, road metal, clothing, vehicles etc. Small plants should be grubbed, and larger ones dug out. Cattle will graze pampas grass. Plants can be controlled with herbicide applied by weed-wiper or sprayer. Better control can be given by slashing large plants or dense stands and spraying the re-growth.

Pampas grass and purple pampas grass are both unwanted pest plants. There are several native species of toetoe, whose flower heads are golden and appear in the spring (September to January).

In addition:

- toetoe leaves don't snap off easily when tugged, pampas grass leaves do
- toetoe leaf midribs continue into the leaf sheath, pampas grass ones don't
- the dead leaves of toetoe do not spiral like wood shavings, pampas grass ones do

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.