

PAMPAS GRASS

Cortaderia selloana

GRASS

Family Poaceae

Origin Native of South America

Declared as a W2 Noxious Weed in some shires *

Description A perennial grass that grows to a height of 3m with a spread of 1.5m. Prefers rich, moist soils in open, sunny positions. It is frost resistant but drought tender ¹. A number of species of pampas grass invades the NSW coast. They are a problem mainly along the central coast on waste sites and disturbed areas on hind-dunes, headlands and in bushland ².

Stems/Leaves The stems are tall and reed-like, occurring in clumps. The leaves are long, linear, sheathing at the base ¹ and very sharp ⁸.

Flowers Silvery white to pink coloured plumes on the end of long spikes. Flowers summer to autumn ².

Fruit/Seed Produces tiny seeds up to 100,000 per plume ² late in summer. Dispersed by wind and water ⁸.

Root system Fibrous roots (rhizomes) below the crown ⁸.

Removal techniques

Manual All seed heads must be bagged to contain seeds and to prevent spreading of seeds during removal. To dig out plant by hand cut back all long blades then mattock and lever the root mass from the ground. Ensure all rhizomes are removed ². This weed has razor sharp leaf blades so it is best to wear protective clothing and eyewear ²¹.

Chemical A number of chemical controls are available. Burning the plant and spraying diluted glyphosate on new shoots on new shoots is a useful method ².

Similar native species

Saw-sedges (*Gahnia sp*): Large leafy sedges forming tussocks on moist, marshy ground. Sharply serrated leaves are an obvious distinguishing feature ⁹. Young plants can resemble pampas grass ⁸.

Notes

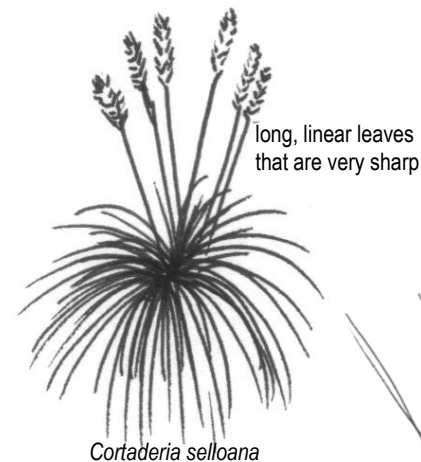
When disturbed by fire the plant re-shoots from the crown. Also germinates in high light ⁸.

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flowers are silvery/white plumes on ends of long spikes



* Declared as a W2 Noxious Weed by Gosford City Council, Lake Macquarie City Council and Wyong Shire Council. W2 Noxious Weeds are a threat to agriculture, the environment and community and have the potential to spread. They must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

Similar native species



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