



# WANTED

## PAMPAS GRASS

*Cortaderia selloana*

### Glossary

#### Floret

One of the small reduced flowers.

#### Inflorescence

The arrangement of the flowers and flower axes.

#### Opportunistically

All year round when conditions are favourable.

#### Perennial

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons.

#### Plume

Cylindrical seedhead.

#### Rhizomes

A creeping stem, usually below ground from which new aerial shoots arise.

#### Tufted

Loose clumping of stems at base.

### For More Information

#### Contact

Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program  
Tel: (08) 9424 2222

Shire of Mundaring Bushcare Co-ordinator  
Tel: (08) 9290 6685

Shire of Kalamunda Bushcare Co-ordinator  
Tel: (08) 9257 9936



### Introduction

Pampas grass is a highly regarded ornamental plant by suburban gardeners. It is however, a garden escapee and an aggressive coloniser, particularly of disturbed, open sites, but also invades bushland, wetlands, as well as roadside verges.

### Origin

South America.

### Status

A priority weed species for the Shire of Kalamunda.

### Lifeform

Perennial grass.

### Description

A tall, stalked grass: 4-6 m; with large plumes of tiny cream florets atop and a large, densely tufted base. There are separate female and hermaphrodite (functionally male but may set seed) plants (dioecious).

**Leaves:** Extremely sharp; up to 1 m long.

**Flowers/Seedheads:** White/silvery, feathery and plume-like inflorescence; up to 3 metres tall.

### Reproduction & Dispersion

Pampas grass has an extremely prolific seeding habit, with individual plants producing up to 100,000 fertile seeds for each plume, for reproduction. These seeds are dispersed primarily by wind in radius of up to 25 kilometres, but also by water and mammals.

The species also spreads by rhizomes.

### Growing Habit

Roots grow to a depth of 3 m with a spread of up to 4 m.

### Distribution

Sunny, swampy sites from Perth to Albany. Clustered populations south of Perth.

### Flowering Season

Winter; opportunistically.

### Effects on Ecosystem

An aggressive coloniser of disturbed land. Every effort should be made to control this plant due to the explosion of seed production and dispersal.

### Control

#### Manual Control:

Wear gloves as the leaves are sharp and can cause cuts. Dig out smaller plants, ensuring the rhizomes are removed to prevent regrowth, but do not leave uprooted plants lying on the ground as they can resprout.

Limit spread by removing emerging flower stems - slash/burn clumps. Remove large plants with a back hoe and burn when dry.

Hermaphrodite plants produce plumes a week or two before females and priority should be given to removing these immediately.

Where there is no risk of damage to native vegetation, stock can be utilised to control spread, then replant with native shrub species.

#### Chemical Control

Spray regrowth with glyphosate. May require more than one application.

Please see "Herbicides and Pesticides" fact sheet for more information about spraying chemicals.

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