



Pampas grass

(*Cortaderia selloana*)

Originated in South America (Chile, Brazil, Argentina). Introduced as an ornamental plant around the world, but also used as fodder, for wind breaks and to stabilise soil.

Description

- Perennial, herbaceous plant
- Grows in clumps up to 2 metres in diameter and 4 metres high
- Numerous, smooth leaves, narrow, long and straight, 0.8 to 1.5 metres long, 5 to 10 mm wide, sharp edges. The leaves curve toward the ground
- The inflorescences are made up of dense, fluffy, feather-like panicles, whitish in colour, 0.3 to 1 metre long
- Rows of 2 to 7 flowers, the lemmas of male flowers are almost smooth, those of female flowers have long, silver hairs

Ecology and reproduction

- Wide range of habitats (dunes, wet swards, marshes, ditches, river banks, roadsides, reverted land, etc.) The plants prefer sunny, humid areas, but can survive dry periods
- Life cycle of 10 to 15 years
- The plants produce large quantities of seeds that are easily carried by the wind
- Generally a dioecious species

Documentation

- Fried G. 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp.
- Muller S (coord.), 2004. Plantes invasives en France. MNHN, Paris, 168 pp.
- Brunel S (coord.), 2003. Plantes envahissantes de la région méditerranéenne. Agence méditerranéenne de l'environnement, Conservatoire botanique national méditerranéen de Porquerolles, Agence régionale pour l'environnement Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. 48 pp.
- CABI, 2018. Invasive Species Compendium : *Cortaderia selloana* (pampas grass). <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/11872>

Author: Doriane Blottière, IUCN French committee, for the Resource Centre on invasive alien species. March 2019. Published by the French Biodiversity Agency.

Classification	
Order	Poales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	Cortaderia
Species	C. selloana ((Schult. & Schult.f.) Asch & Graebn, 1900)

