



# 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	<i>Cortaderia</i>
Species	<i>C. selloana</i> ((Schult. & Schult.f.) Asch & Graebn, 1900)



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