



Yachats Weed of the Month – January 2024

Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)

Pampas grass and its close relative, Jubata grass (*C. jubata*) are native to South America and were introduced as ornamental plants. Both species thrive on the West coast of the USA, to the extent that they readily escape from cultivation and have become serious problem weeds in Oregon, California and Washington.

Identification: Pampas grass and the very similar jubata grass are large perennials that grow in dense clumps called tussocks. The narrow, bluish-green leaves grow up to 6 feet in length. Upright stems grow out of the tussock with plumes of feathery flowers at their tips. Flower color varies from white, silver, cream, pink to violet.



Impact: Pampas grass escapes from cultivation and invades what should be natural areas. It is a major problem in California, but even in our area you can see plenty of it along the road between here and 10-mile creek to the south of us. Left unchecked, pampas grass crowds out native vegetation. Even in the confines of an urban garden it can become a problem as it grows into a huge, untidy clump, difficult to control and even more difficult to destroy. The leaves have sharp, serrated edges that can cut humans and other animals alike. A single plant can produce over half a million seeds that are light and are easily dispersed by wind. Think twice before planting pampas grass then don't plant it!

Management: Wear leather gloves and long sleeves to avoid cuts when working on pampas grass. Cut and bag the inflorescences to prevent the spread of seed. Small seedlings can be pulled by hand, but established tussocks are best attacked with a mattock, Pulaski or shovel. You will need to remove the entire crown and the top section of the roots to prevent resprouting. After removing a mature tussock you should spread the area generously with mulch to inhibit germination of seeds. Replanting with more desirable plants will also help in this regard.

Contact information: Call Wally at 541 606 0055 if you have any questions. For more weed info, go to www.yachatstrails.org .

Yachats "Weed of the Month" is an informational service of the Yachats Trails Committee and YIPS! - the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee.