



# Uruguayan Pampas Grass

*Cortaderia selloana* (J.A. & J.H. Schultes) Aschers. & Graebn.

### Common Names:

Uruguayan pampas grass, pampas grass, silver pampas grass

### Native Origin:

Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay

### Description:

A perennial in the grass family (*Poaceae*) growing 6 to 13 feet in height. Leave blades are 6 feet long and 1-3 inches wide, V-shaped in cross-section, and bluish green in color. The upper surface is smooth at base and the lower surface is smooth or hairy towards collar. Tips are bristly and curled. Margins are scabrous (rough) and sharp. Inflorescence consists of dense, feathery, 1-4 feet, stiff, light violet to silvery white panicles. Lateral roots can spread to 13 feet in diameter and 11½ feet in depth.

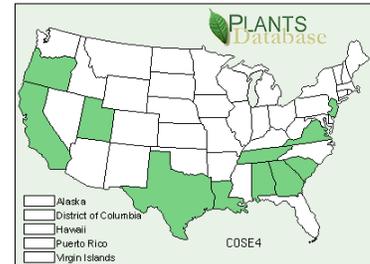


### Habitat:

This plant spreads along sandy, moist ditch banks. It requires sandy soils, ample moisture, and sunny locations. It tolerates warm summer temperatures, intense sunlight, and moderate drought.

### Distribution:

This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in AZ, CA, CO, and UT.



### Ecological Impacts:

The vigorous growth habit and large size can be invasive in natural ecosystems. Planted as an ornamental, windbreak or hedge border, populations have escaped cultivation. Vegetative reproduction can occur when root fragments develop shoots at the base of the plant. Once established, roots of a single plant can occupy a soil area of about 1,100 square feet. Dr. James Miller stated, "These plants are extremely invasive in semi-arid regions after they enter drainages, but have less invasive potential in the forested east."

### Control and Management:



- **Manual-** Pulling or hand grubbing seedlings is highly effective. Use a pulaski, mattock, pickaxe, or shovel to remove established clumps. A large chainsaw or weed-eater can expose the base of the plant, allow better access for removal of the crown, and make disposal of the detached plant more manageable. To prevent resprouting, it is important to remove the entire crown and top section of the roots.

*Note:* Leaves can give painful cuts to the skin when handled. Wear gloves and

protective clothing when working with this plant.

- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled with glyphosate, a post-emergence herbicide. Fall applications result in good control because photosynthetic assimilates are trans-locating downward at a faster rate late in the season. For large clumps, the top foliage can be removed by cutting or burning and the regrowth treated with a systemic post-emergence herbicide. This method reduces the amount of herbicide applied compared to herbicide treatment alone. Follow label and state requirements.

**References:** <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm)  
[www.thegardenhelper.com/pampaspix.html](http://www.thegardenhelper.com/pampaspix.html), [www.sfei.org/nis/pampasgrass.html](http://www.sfei.org/nis/pampasgrass.html),  
<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/datastore/detailreport.cfm?usernumber=35&surveynumber=182>,  
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