



Cortaderia selloana

Common Name(s):

pampas grass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A coastal and lowland plant found between sea level and 800 metres. Plant grows in sites of all levels of fertility from low to high. The plant grows in a wide variety of soils from pumice and coastal sands to heavy clay (Ford 1993). Coloniser of open ground (West, 1996). A plant that occurs in low or disturbed forest (including plantations), wetlands, grasslands, scrub, cliffs, coastlines, islands, forest margins, riverbanks, shrubland, open areas, roadsides and sand dunes. The plant's primary habitat is disturbed ground.

Features:

Large-clump-forming grass to 4 m+. Leaf base smooth or sparsely hairy, no white waxy surface (cf. toetoe - *Austroderia* - species). Leaves with conspicuous midrib which does not continue into leaf base, no secondary veins between midrib and leaf edge. Leaves bluish-green above, dark green below, snap across readily when tugged (toetoe species have multiple ribs in the leaves, making the leaves difficult to snap across). Dead leaf bases spiral like wood shavings, which makes pampas grasses more flammable than toetoe species. Flower head erect, dense, fluffy, white-pinkish, fading to dirty white, (Jan)-Mar-Jun.

Flowering:

March, April,
May

Fruiting:

April-May (Timmins & MacKenzie
1995).

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3753



Caption: Plimmerton. Jun 2006.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Plimmerton. Jun 2006.

Glabrous leaf base.

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