

**PEST
ALERT**

Pampas Grass

Please Call 553-5236



Photograph by Forest & Kim Starr (USGS)



Cortaderia jubata



Cortaderia selloana, MISC photo.

What is it?

- Pampas grass (*Cortaderia sp.*) is a giant bunchgrass from South Africa that is invading Hawaii.
- The narrow leaves have sharp, serrated edges.
- It has white to purple flower plumes.
- This plant grows to over 13 feet tall.
- Seeds are spread by the wind and can be viable for at least 6 years.
- *Cortaderia jubata* is on the **State noxious weed*** list.
- These weeds are found upcountry.

Why is it a problem in Hawaii?

- Pampas grass forms dense, monotypic stands that crowd out native plants.
- Spreads rapidly, taking over grasslands.
- Seeds are dispersed by wind, making it difficult to locate plants.
- Once established, pampas grass can crowd out native plants, damage grazing lands, and create a **fire hazard** that threatens residential areas.

What is MoMISC doing?

- The Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee is a multi-sector partnership fighting to protect Molokai from invasive plants and animals that threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life.
- MoMISC prevents new invasive species from becoming established on Molokai through education and outreach.
- MoMISC works with the community to control invasive species on private and public property.

What can you do?

- Do not grow pampas grass.
- Learn to identify invasive species in the MoMISC brochure.
- Call MoMISC at 553-5236 if you see pampas grass anywhere on Molokai.
- Grow native plants instead of non-native plants. Encourage your friends to do the same.
- Before purchasing a plant, check if it is invasive. You can ask your nursery, call MoMISC for assistance, or check <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/hortweeds/specieslist.htm>
- For more information, visit our website, <http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/>

*illegal to transport or introduce to areas free or mostly free of the weed



23 Pueo Place, Molokai Industrial Park
P.O. Box 220, Kualapuu, HI 96757
Phone: (808) 553-5236 Fax: (808) 553-9870
Email: lbuchanan@tnc.org
Website: www.hear.org/momisc/

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