

q-bankplants factsheet

Cortaderia jubata (Lemoine ex Carrière) Stapf

Fam: Poaceae

Purple pampas grass

Synonyms: *Cortaderia atacamensis* (Phil.) Pilg., *Cortaderia selloana* subsp. *jubata* (Lemoine) Testoni & Villamil, *Gynerium jubatum* Lemoine ex Carrière

Ecology: Purple pampas grass is a tall perennial grass, up to 4 m with erect culms and forming dense tussocks. Only female plants are known to occur and seed is produced by apomixis. In South America, it can tolerate severe droughts but establishes best in wet, sandy soils without existing vegetation.

Threat: In Europe, purple pampas grass is not found in the natural environment. In its introduced range it can form dense stands particularly in sandy habitats, outcompete natural vegetation and decrease biodiversity.

Control: Hand-pulling is effective, particularly when plants are young. Larger plants can be dug out or mechanically removed. Removal of the inflorescences before manual removal is recommended. Chemical control is often very effective and best performed when the plants are under stress (drought, frost).

Identification / similar species: Purple pampas grass closely resembles pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), but can generally be distinguished in flower by the inflorescences that extend well beyond the foliage and have a purple hue when young and not purely white or yellow as in *C. selloana*. To obtain certainty the flowers have to be studied in detail.

This species is on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern ('the Union list') pursuant to regulation (EU) no.1143/2014.

