



Restore
Hibiscus & Bays

January 2021

Pampas Grass

This invasive grass forms in clumps up to 6 metres tall. It is often mistaken for our beautiful native toetoe. Unlike toetoe's drooping creamy-coloured flowers, pampas produces flowers from February to April that are erect, dense and uniform – generally white, pinkish or purplish in colour. Pampas leaves have no secondary veins between midrib and leaf edge, the leaves can be torn, and dead leaves spiral like wood shavings. Toetoe leaves have multiple secondary veins and cannot be torn.

Pampas is a serious threat to some natural areas like sand dunes, stream banks and coastal cliffs where it can completely replace native plants. It is also a problem on roadsides, as it reduces visibility. Pampas can be a fire risk and harbours animal pests such as rats, mice, rabbits and possums.

Take action as soon as possible before the seeds form next summer. Email info@restorehb.org.nz with any questions.

www.restorehb.org.nz

Recognise

Learn to tell the difference between invasive pampas and native toetoe.



Spread the Word

Talk to your neighbours and encourage them to take action too!



Remove

For young plants, loosen the soil and pull out. To avoid nasty cuts, wear gloves and protective clothing. If using herbicides, slash plants about 30cm from the ground and spot spray the regrowth with glyphosate 15ml/l (plus penetrant). Other herbicide methods may be used with Growsafe qualification.



Pampas – dead leaf spirals and no secondary veins

Dispose

Dispose of the flower heads in your rubbish bin to go to landfill, securely tied inside a plastic bag - to stop it spreading to other areas. Leaf matter can be left on site, acting as mulch and shading out the seed bank.



Native toetoe flower head and leaf – for comparison

Further Resources

[Managing Pest Plants](#)

[Health and Safety Guidance](#)

[Other Pest Plant Resources](#)

[To borrow tools and equipment, visit our tool library.](#)