

# Pampas Grasses - Statutory Weed Management Plan

## ***Cortaderia* species**

### **Interpretation:**

In this Weed Management Plan (approved 30 August 2003):  
(amendments approved 21 June 2011):

- "Act" means the *Weed Management Act 1999*.
- "Approved quarantine place" means a place approved by the Secretary under section 70 of the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* for the purpose of examining any prescribed matter imported into or to be exported out of the State.
- "Court fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the Act. Court fines may be imposed if a person is convicted of any offence against the Act.
- "DPIPWE" means the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.
- "Infringement fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the Act. Infringement fines are imposed by way of an infringement notice that may be issued by a Weed Inspector.
- "Inspector" means a Weed Inspector appointed under section 34 of the Act.
- "Penalty unit" means the basic unit of the fine for which persons who fail to comply with any prohibition or requirement under the Act may be liable. See [values of penalty units](#) under the *Penalty Units and Other Penalties Act 1987* for more details.
- "Quarantine Tasmania" means that branch of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment that, in cooperation with the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, maintains both overseas and interstate quarantine barriers for this State.
- "[Regional Weed Management Officer](#)" means a person employed in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment under that specific title.
- "Regulations" means the *Weed Management Regulations 2000*.
- "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
- "Zone A" includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which eradication of a declared weed is the principal management objective. These municipalities are either free of the declared weed, host only small, isolated infestations, or host larger infestations which are deemed eradicable because a strategic management plan exists and the resources required to implement it have been or are likely to be secured. See [Management of pampas grass by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.

- “Zone B” includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which containment of the declared weed is the principal management objective. Such municipalities host large, widespread infestations of the declared weed that are not deemed eradicable because the feasibility of effective management is low at this time. These municipalities lack a strategic management plan for the weed and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication have not been secured. See [Management of pampas grass by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.
- “Pampas grass” means any species of the genus *Cortaderia* and includes whole plants or plant parts. It does not include products such as tablets, lotions, tinctures or other preparations that contain extracts of this plant or other dead, non-reproductive *Cortaderia* materials. People who are uncertain about whether products (e.g. dried materials) contain plant parts capable of producing a living plant should contact a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).

### **1. Purpose of this management plan:**

The purpose of this Weed Management Plan for pampas grasses is to:

- Provide direction upon the implementation of the *Act* with respect to pampas grasses.
- Encourage and facilitate an increase in the effectiveness with which pampas grasses are managed throughout Tasmania with a view to eradicating existing infestations and preventing future occurrences.
- Provide legislative support to regional and local efforts to manage pampas grasses in a strategic and integrated manner.

### **2. Area covered by this management plan:**

The State of Tasmania is covered by this management plan.

### **3. Description and distribution of the weed:**

Pampas grasses are large, tussock-forming grasses, some species of which may grow to 6 m high.

These plants can invade native vegetation, silvicultural operations and neglected areas. They occur as weeds in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

Three species of pampas grass, *Cortaderia selloana*, common pampas grass, *Cortaderia jubata*, pink pampas and *Cortaderia richardii*, thrive in a variety of habitats in Tasmania. They are found in well drained, sunny areas such as roadsides and quarries and damper, shaded places such as stream-sides and plantation forests. Several native vegetation types including wet and dry sclerophyll, coastal heath

and dune systems are also vulnerable to pampas grass invasion. Pampas grass may also be found in gardens and in wind-break plantings.

The most severe infestations occur on Flinders Island. Significant populations of this weed also occur on King Island and in the north-west. A two and a half year State-wide pampas eradication effort hosted by Forestry Tasmania, and concerted local efforts on the east coast and in the north-west, have produced a dramatic decline in Tasmania's pampas grass populations in certain areas in recent times. The Flinders Island community is in the process of implementing a 10-year pampas grass eradication strategy. Refer to [Management of pampas grass by municipality](#) (Section 12) for information on the distribution of pampas grass in Tasmania by municipality.

See the DPIPW [Pampas Grass Information Page](#) for more information on this weed.

#### **4. Importation of declared weed:**

##### **(1) A person must not import or allow to be imported into Tasmania any pampas grass.**

*It is an offence against section 57(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted in court of that offence may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons travelling to Tasmania, in particular from areas infested with pampas grass such as Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia should conduct thorough searches for the presence of the plant and apply appropriate hygiene measures. These include clothing, vehicle, machinery and baggage inspection and cleaning. Questions or concerns about weed hygiene issues should be directed to Quarantine Tasmania personnel before or directly upon disembarkation in Tasmania.
- Persons importing dried or fresh ornamental plants, including seeds or vegetative material should ensure their stock does not include pampas grass.
- Persons importing items to Tasmania that may contain pampas grass should have these checked for the presence of the plant. This can be arranged through Quarantine Tasmania.

**Note: The importation of this species into Tasmania is also restricted under the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997*. Quarantine Tasmania should be contacted for information on the relevance and application of the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* to activities concerning plant species.**

## **5. Procedures for notification of the occurrence of the weed:**

Inspectors shall notify a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) of any pampas grass occurrences in municipalities or parts of municipalities where the weed is not yet recorded. Refer to [Management of pampas grass by municipality](#) (Section 12) for distribution of pampas grass in Tasmania by municipality.

## **6. Sale, purchase, propagation, use, &c., of declared weed:**

### **(1) A person must not:**

- (a) sell pampas grass or any material or thing containing or carrying pampas grass; or**
- (b) purchase or offer to purchase pampas grass or any material or thing containing or carrying pampas grass; or**
- (c) grow, propagate or scatter pampas grass; or**
- (d) store pampas grass or any material or thing containing or carrying pampas grass; or**
- (e) hire or offer for hire any material or thing containing or carrying pampas grass; or**
- (f) use pampas grass or any material or thing containing or carrying pampas grass; or**
- (g) deal with pampas grass or any material or thing containing or carrying pampas grass in any manner that is likely to result in the spread of the declared weed.**

*It is an offence against section 56(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, growing, propagating or scattering, storing, using, or otherwise dealing with ornamental plants should ensure their stock does not include pampas grass. This includes roadside stalls, market stalls, fundraising events, garden club swaps, nursery sales, supermarket sales and ANY OTHER activities resulting in the distribution of ornamental plants.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with agricultural or roading machinery likely to be contaminated with pampas grass should ensure that this equipment is free of this plant by undertaking appropriate hygiene measures. These include introducing thorough visual checks and cleaning of machinery as routine tasks when preparing these items for sale or distribution.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with soil, gravel, lime or other such materials from areas infested with pampas grass should seek alternative stock sources unless they can guarantee these materials are free of pampas grass.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, growing, propagating or scattering, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with agricultural produce, agricultural or roading machinery, stock, soil, gravel or other such materials likely to be contaminated with pampas grass should take direction from any local, regional or State hygiene programs being implemented in the municipality.
- Persons purchasing or hiring any items (e.g. machinery, livestock, soil, gravel) likely to be contaminated with pampas grass should liaise with suppliers for guarantees of pampas grass free goods and materials and keep accurate records of their purchase transactions. Buyers discovering pampas grass contamination post-purchase should implement practices that reduce the potential for establishment and spread of this plant. These include, creating dedicated areas for the wash down of purchased machinery and vehicles and carefully monitoring any suspect soil, gravel or other such materials for the emergence of this weed.

**(2) It is a defence in proceedings for an offence under section 56(1) of the Act if the defendant establishes that he or she took all reasonable actions to prevent the commission of the offence.**

## **7. Measures to reduce the number of pampas grass plants, eradicate pampas grass from an area or restrict pampas grass to a particular area:**

**An Inspector may, by serving a notice on the owner of any place, require that owner to implement any of the measures described in this part of the Weed Management Plan or any other measures consistent with it.**

*It is an offence against section 13(3) of the Act to fail to comply with a requirement notice issued by an Inspector. A person who fails to comply with that notice may be issued with an infringement fine of 8 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 5 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues.*

Persons or organisations upon whose properties pampas grass occurs (including ornamental plantings) should undertake the following:

- Planning and implementation of an integrated control plan. Such a plan for pampas grass should include an inventory of pampas grass infestations in the area to which the plan relates, well-defined objectives, practicable control actions, follow-up actions, a realistic timeline and a budget, as a minimum. [Regional Weed Management Officers](#) or Inspectors may be contacted for advice on developing integrated control plans.
- Seek information about supporting any council endorsed plans relating to pampas grass management in their municipality.
- Seek cooperation with neighbouring property owners when pampas grass control measures are being planned or implemented.

Other general measures:

- Persons or organisations responsible for managing land that is currently free of pampas grass should undertake prevention measures, especially when that land is suited to pampas grass establishment. Such prevention measures include:
  - Developing an ability to identify the plant;
  - Noting its occurrence and progress on nearby properties;
  - Undertaking control of small outbreaks without delay;
  - Arranging on-site quarantine for, or not bringing or allowing onto the property vehicles, machinery, soil, gravel, lime or other such material that may be contaminated with pampas grass.

A [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) may be contacted for advice on keeping areas free of pampas grass.

- Persons performing contract work of an agricultural, utility maintenance, roading or earthmoving nature, on-site consultations or assessments, deliveries or other visits in areas or properties infested with pampas grass should undertake appropriate hygiene measures. These include thorough visual checks upon clothing, footwear, vehicles and machinery and, cleaning of the same, prior to leaving the infested property. Developing a check-list will help ensure such routines are rigorous and consistent. Materials or items likely to be contaminated with pampas grass should not be moved from pampas grass infested areas or to areas free of pampas grass until any contamination risks have been minimised.
- Persons wishing to dispose of pampas grass or any thing contaminated with pampas grass should contact an Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) first, in order to receive direction upon how best to do this. Note that municipal waste disposal facilities vary in their acceptance and handling of declared weeds. Municipal waste disposal managers should be contacted for details.
- Persons wishing to transport pampas or any thing contaminated with pampas grass, for the purpose of disposal, should ensure this is undertaken in a manner that does not permit the release of seeds or other material. Measures include planning routes that avoid pampas grass free areas, securing material in bags or under tarpaulins prior to transport, checking material at regular intervals during long journeys or during windy conditions, and adequately cleaning vehicles after the material has been unloaded.

## **8. Storage in a specified area of any thing contaminated with the declared weed:**

**Any thing found to be contaminated with pampas grass may be removed to storage at an appropriate approved quarantine place. A [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) will determine whether removal to storage at any of these facilities or treatment/destruction of material *in situ* is most appropriate.**

*Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence against section 51(1) of the Act. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this requirement under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- A person who discovers or suspects he/she possesses any thing, (e.g. machinery, soil, gravel) contaminated with pampas grass should contact an Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#). The contaminated thing should not be moved, disturbed, treated or disposed of prior to making this contact. If pampas grass is confirmed, the person will be directed and advised in the proper management, including storage or disposal options, of the contaminated thing.

## **9. Any other measures the Minister considers appropriate to control the weed:**

There are no other measures appropriate for the management of pampas grass in Tasmania at this time.

## **10. Exemptions:**

A person may apply for an exemption from any of provisions of the *Act* that relate to pampas grass. He/she should contact a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) to discuss the reasons for seeking the exemption and obtain an exemption application form.

Persons granted an exemption should ensure they understand fully, any conditions specified in the exemption. Queries can be directed to a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).

## **11. Review of this Weed Management Plan:**

A review of this Weed Management Plan may be undertaken at least once every five years if it is necessary and desirable to do so. The review will incorporate consultation with stakeholders deemed appropriate by the Secretary, DPIPWE.

## **12. Management of pampas grass by municipality:**

Each Tasmanian municipality is classified into one of two management zones (Zones A or B) for the purposes of implementing this Weed Management Plan for pampas grass.

**Zone A Municipalities - eradication:** Eradication is the most appropriate management objective for Zone A municipalities which have little or no pampas grass, or when a credible plan for eradicating existing infestations is being developed and implemented. The ultimate management outcome for Zone A municipalities is achieving and maintaining the total absence of pampas grass from within municipal boundaries.

**Zone B municipalities - containment:** Containment is the most appropriate management objective for Zone B municipalities which have problematic infestations but no plan and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication. The management outcome for Zone B municipalities is ongoing prevention of the spread of pampas grass from existing infestations to areas free or in the process of becoming free of pampas grass.

The decision regarding which category is most appropriate for a particular municipality at a particular time is made jointly by DPIPW and each municipality. Municipalities may change categories over time. For example, a Zone B municipality may decide to develop and implement a strategic plan for pampas grass, with eradication as the objective. Provided the plan is credible, this municipality would qualify for inclusion in Zone A. Conversely, a Zone A municipality with widespread infestations may decide to stop supporting a strategic plan for pampas grass eradication, in which case it would be re-classed as Zone B.

Table 1 lists the distribution and management measures of all Tasmanian municipalities currently classified as Zone A for pampas grass. Note that all municipalities are currently classed as Zone A for pampas grass.

**Table 1. Distribution and management measures for pampas grass in municipalities classified as Zone A at 01/2011.**

Distribution data from Tasmanian herbarium and DPIPW records.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Pampas grass distribution</b>	<b>Management measures*</b>
Break O'Day	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control program for eradication and prevent future occurrences. This applies to all Zone A municipalities.
Brighton	Isolated occurrences	
Burnie	Localised infestations	
Central Coast	Localised infestations	
Central Highlands	Isolated occurrences	
Circular Head	Isolated occurrences	
Clarence	Localised infestations	
Derwent Valley	Isolated occurrences	

Devonport	Localised infestations	
Dorset	Isolated occurrences	
Flinders	Widespread infestations	
George Town	Localised infestations	
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	Isolated occurrences	
Glenorchy	Localised infestations	
Hobart	Isolated occurrences	
Huon Valley	Isolated occurrences	
Kentish	Localised infestations	
King Island	Widespread infestations	
Kingborough	Localised infestations	
Latrobe	Localised infestations	
Launceston	Localised infestations	
Meander Valley	Localised occurrences	
Northern Midlands	Isolated infestations	
Sorell	Isolated occurrences	
Southern Midlands	Isolated occurrences	
Tasman	Localised infestations	
Waratah/Wynyard	Isolated occurrences	
West Coast	Widespread infestations	
West Tamar	Localised infestations	

\*When a DPIPWE approved weed management strategy that has local council endorsement exists, management of this declared weed in the municipality concerned should occur with direct reference to that strategy.

The following distribution categories are used in Table 1:

“None recorded”. This means the plant is not known to be naturalised in the municipality, either from the records of the Tasmanian Herbarium or from DPIPWE databases. In cases where the plant was known to be naturalised at a previous time but is not known there currently, the description “Previously recorded, none known now” is used.

“Isolated occurrences”. This means the species is uncommon in the municipality, with populations limited to one or a few. The number of plants is generally small and/or populations cover small areas.

“Localised infestations”. This means the species is present in the municipality in moderate proportions, with populations numbering several. The number of plants is also moderate and/or populations cover moderate-sized areas.

“Widespread infestations”. This means the species is very common in the municipality, with many populations present. The number of plants present is generally large and/or populations cover large areas.

Note that the distribution descriptions presented in Table 1 apply to naturalised populations of the plant only. They do not include amenity, garden, horticultural or other deliberate plantings unless specified. The descriptions are relative and provide a general indication only of the spatial status of the plant in the municipality. Detailed location information may be obtained by contacting a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#). In addition, if you have reason to believe any of the distribution information presented in Table 1 is incorrect, please advise a Regional Weed Management Officer.