

## PAMPAS GRASS



### WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

- Pampas grass grows quickly and has invaded natural areas in California, Australia, New Zealand, and Maui.
- It produces millions of wind-dispersed seeds.
- Pampas grass clumps outcompete native plants by depriving them of water and nutrients.
- Pampas grass infestations make areas more prone to brush fires, and block access to areas needed by fire fighters.
- The sharp leaves cut the skin, and infestations of pampas grass can block access to recreation areas.

### WHAT IS IT?

- Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* and *Cortaderia jubata*), is an ornamental bunchgrass that has already invaded Maui, California, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Pampas grass is a giant tussock-forming grass with white to pink flower plumes.
- It has narrow leaves with sharp, saw-toothed leaves that can cut the skin.
- It can reach up to 15 feet in height.
- It is planted ornamentally.
- It is drought tolerant, yet flourishes in wet areas.

### WHO IS BIISC?

- The Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) is a multi-sector partnership fighting to protect Hawaii from invasive plants and animals that threaten our environment, economy, and quality of life.
- BIISC focuses both on species that are not established and can still be controlled or eradicated; and on containing established species from important watersheds and forests.
- BIISC partners include the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the US Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, Malama o Puna, and other state, and federal agencies.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Allow BIISC to remove your pampas grass if asked.
- According to Hawai'i state law, landowners are not liable for workers removing invasive species on their land.
- Report all sightings to 961-3299
- Do not plant, import, buy, or sell pampas grass.
- If found, do not throw plants away! Call us for proper disposal.
- Learn more about pampas grass at <http://www.bigislandisc.org> or <http://www.hear.org>

#### WHAT HAS BIISC DONE?

- Successfully eradicated Pampas Grass from Waimea and Volcano locations

**Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC): A partnership of public agencies and private landowners for invasive species education, early detection, control and eradication.**

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