

# Cortaderia jubata

## Jubatagrass, Andean pampasgrass

*Cortaderia jubata* (Lemoine) Stapf.

Family: Poaceae

**Description:** Dense bunchgrass to 10 ft tall. Leaves narrow, 0.4 inches wide, tapering gradually to a slender tip, hairy at the base of the upper surface, margins finely serrate, sharp. Inflorescences a showy nodding plume, standing 2–4 times higher than the leaves, pink to deep violet when immature, turning white. Flowers August–October in Hawai‘i<sup>(11)</sup>. [*C. selloana* (Schult.) Aschers. and Graebn., pampasgrass, from Argentina and Brazil, is similar in appearance

but not as invasive because male plants are rare, although there is some disagreement about this. Its flowering stalk is shorter than that of jubatagrass, its leaves are not hairy at the base, and its inflorescence is erect, a light violet to silvery white. Flowers in Hawai‘i in



*Cortaderia selloana*, pampasgrass

September–November<sup>(11)</sup>.] Jubatagrass produces seed asexually and is thus prolific and weedy<sup>(63)</sup>. *Cortaderia* from a Latin American common name in turn derived from the Spanish *cortar*, to cut, because of sharp leaf margins; *jubata*, maned or crested with awns<sup>(19)</sup>; *selloana*, after Frederick Sello, a German botanist<sup>(34)</sup>.

**Distribution:** A popular ornamental in warm states, jubatagrass and pampasgrass are grown as ornamentals throughout Hawai‘i. Jubatagrass is native to the Andes and is naturalized in several sites in East and West Maui in dry to wet zones, 2000–7000 ft. Small infestations occur at Kula, Ko‘olau Gap in the Haleakalā National



Park, Haleakala Highway, Haleakala Ranch, Kahakuloa Natural Area Reserve, and I‘ao Valley<sup>(11)</sup>. Dense patches occur above Keanae (E. Tamura HDOA). It is also reported to be a problem in California<sup>(14)</sup>, South Africa<sup>(22)</sup>, and New Zealand<sup>(13)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Forms dense monotypic stands in mesic to humid areas with the potential to replace or compete with native species.

**Management:** Sensitive to glyphosate, which has been aerially applied on Maui at 2% of product with surfactant, sprayed to wet all plant surfaces. The same mixture has been used effectively for aerial spot applications using a “spray ball applicator” used to spot-spray marijuana (E. Tamura, HDOA). Davenhill<sup>(13)</sup> in New Zealand reported glyphosate at 4 lb/acre, hexazinone at 4.8 lb/acre, and imazapyr at 1.78 lb/acre were effective, as were two herbicides not yet registered for forest use in Hawai‘i, haloxyfop and clethodim. Removal and burning of flower heads followed by careful removal of the rest of the plant including the crown and all rhizomes may be effective<sup>(61)</sup>.