

## ***Cortaderia selloana* Pampas Grass<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Introduction**

Pampas Grass forms large, impressive clumps, 8 to 10 feet high and wide, with beautiful silver to white feathery plumes arising on female plants in summer and autumn (Fig. 1). This vigorous ornamental grass is widely used as a lawn specimen but its quick growth rate and large size make it unsuitable for most home landscapes. However, it is ideal for barrier or windbreak plantings and has a place in larger areas such as along highways or in commercial or industrial landscapes.



**Figure 1.** Pampas Grass.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Cortaderia selloana*

**Pronunciation:** kor-tuh-DEER-ee-uh sel-loe-AY-nuh

**Common name(s):** Pampas Grass

**Family:** *Poaceae*

**Plant type:** ornamental grass; perennial; herbaceous

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

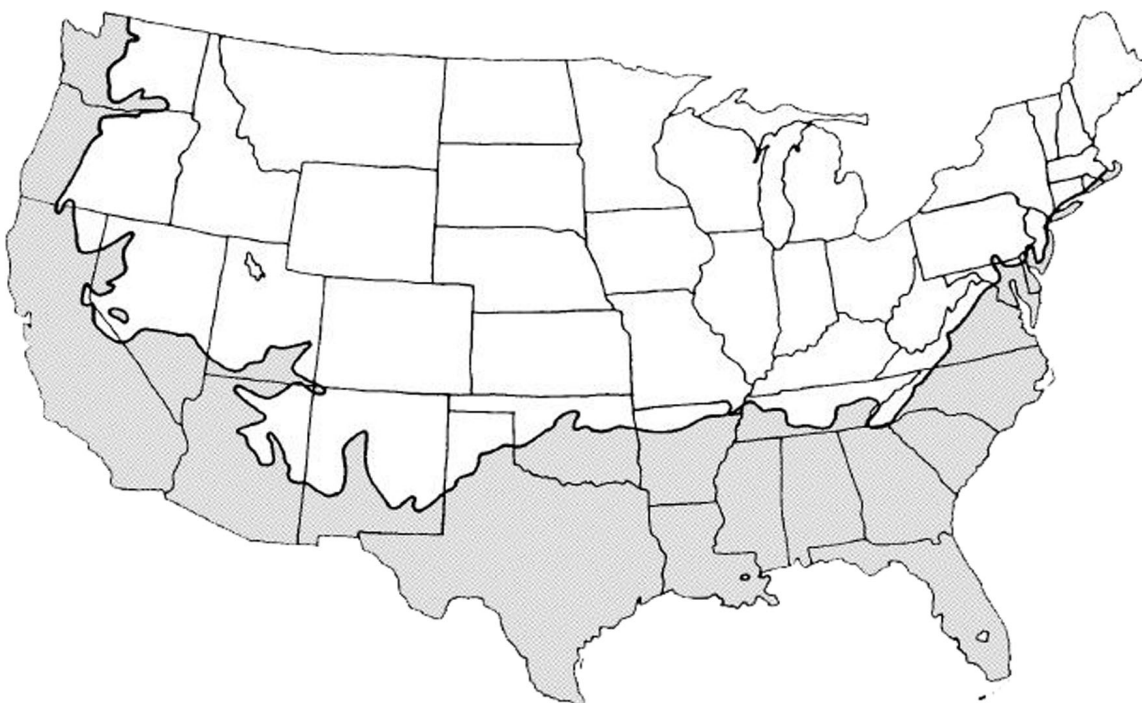
**Uses:** border; mass planting; specimen; accent; cut flowers

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

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1. This document is FPS145, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date October, 1999. Reviewed June, 2007. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Description

**Height:** 8 to 10 feet

**Spread:** 8 to 10 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** fine

**Leaf blade length:** more than 36 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** pink

**Flower characteristic:** fall flowering; summer flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** tan

**Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

### Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** moderate

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

### Other

**Roots:** sprouts from roots or lower trunk

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

### Use and Management

In sun or partial shade, Pampas Grass grows well in most soils except very wet ones, tolerating drought and salt spray, making it especially attractive for seaside landscapes. Be careful in the placement of Pampas Grass in the landscape, however, as it gets larger than most people realize. Many are planted in residential landscapes and later removed because it has grown too large. Children may cut themselves if they accidentally fall into the plant because the edges of the leaves are sharply serrated. Plant six to eight feet apart in a mass planting.

Cultivars include: 'Argenteum', silvery plumes; 'GoldBand', yellow-edged leaves; 'Pumila', dwarf, four to six feet high; 'Rendatleri', pink plumes; 'Rosa Feder', pink plumes; 'Sunningdale Silver', silvery white plumes; and 'White', white, feathery plumes.

Propagation is by division.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.