



Yachats Weed of the Month – March

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*; *C. jubata*)

These two closely related and similar looking grasses are commonly called pampas grass. These natives of South America are cultivated for their showy plumes, but on the US West Coast they freely escape from gardens and establish themselves in the wild. *C. jubata* (also known as jubata grass) is listed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as a class B noxious weed; *C. selloana* is not currently listed but both are recognized as problem weeds by authorities such as the National Parks Service and the Nature Conservancy.

Impact: Both of these grasses are found in this area. They have the potential to greatly impact coastal ecosystems, outcompeting native seedlings and lowering biodiversity. The leaves are sharp-edged and can harm animals and humans. In addition, pampas grass often harbors rats and is also a fire hazard.

Identification: Pampas grass is unmistakable – see photo. The plumes can easily reach a height of 20 ft. A single stand can produce millions of seeds that may be dispersed over many miles. As a result this weed spreads very readily.

Habitat: Pampas grass is seen up and down the Oregon coast, but is more prevalent towards the south. It is not very particular as to habitat, tolerating heat, drought and frost.



Management: Short of using a herbicide such as Roundup, this weed is very difficult to eliminate. People have been known to throw the kitchen sink at it – chainsaws, gasoline + lighted match, and more. The simplest solution is not to plant it in the first place!

Contact information: Call Wally at 541 547 5474 if you have any questions. For Yachats' invasive plants web page, go to www.yachats.info/YIPS

“Yachats Weed of the Month” is an informational service of the Yachats Trails Committee and YIPS! - the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee.