

# Cortaderia jubata

## COMMON NAME

purple pampas grass

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Cortaderia jubata* (Lemoine) Stapf

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

CORJUB

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Forest light gaps, slips, margins, disturbed sites, open habitats, riverbeds, cliffs, inshore and offshore islands, tussockland, fernland, herbfield, duneland, coastline, gumlands, salt marsh, estuaries, shrublands.

## FEATURES

Large-clump-forming grass to 3 m+. Leaf base very hairy, no white waxy surface. Leaves with conspicuous midrib which does not continue into leaf base, no secondary veins between midrib and leaf edge. Both leaf surfaces dark green, snap readily when tugged. Dead leaf bases spiral like wood shavings. Flowerhead erect, dense, uniform, fluffy, bright purple, fading to dirty brown, Jan- Mar.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from native toetoe (*Austroderia* spp.) by the prominent single midrib on the leaves (native cortaderia have several prominent veins, making their leaves difficult to tear across). Can be separated from *C. seloana* by the hairy leaf bases, and the white (to pale pink) flowering spike extends further from the clump.

## FLOWERING

January, February, March

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

## FRUITING

March-April (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

## YEAR NATURALISED

1965

## ORIGIN

South America



North of Silverstream Scenic Reserve, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Leaf blade with prominent midrib but no lateral ribs. North of Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

## LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS

Perennial. Seed germination occurs in autumn. The plants breeding system is autonomous apomixis and the flower type is apomictic. All plants are female and all flowers are capable of producing seed without pollination. Reproduction primarily by seed but clumps can get quite large. All plants are female but viable seed is produced by apomixis. Seed production is high, averaging one million per inflorescence in first year of flowering. It is unlikely that this plant forms a long term seed bank.

Seed is dispersed by gravity, man, vertebrates, machinery, in gravel and by wind. The seed is very light and is wind dispersed up to 50km.

## TOLERANCES

Adult plants are tolerant of drought and frost, prefers high light. Seedlings are intolerant to drought and slightly tolerant of frost, slightly intolerant to intolerant of poor drainage.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cortaderia-jubata/>