

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Jubata grass
Cortaderia jubata

Other common names: Pampas grass, Andes grass,
Selloa pampas grass, cortaderia, pink pampas grass,

USDA symbol: COJU2
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Jubata grass is native to northern Argentina and the Andes of Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Ecuador. In its native range, it can be found from sea level to elevations greater than 11,000 feet. It was first cultivated in France and Ireland from seed collected in Ecuador. This robust grass is highly invasive in Northern California.

Distribution in Oregon: Escaped jubata grass occurs in most southwestern Oregon counties on disturbed ditch banks, road cuts, cliff-sides and logged areas. It is less common on the northern Oregon coastline.

Description: Jubata grass is a perennial grass ranging 6 to 10 feet tall. Plants have long leaves arising from a tufted base or tussock. The flower cluster is a plumed panicle at the end of a very long stem. Stems generally are at least twice as long as the tussock. Plumes consist of hairy female flowers, deep violet when immature, turning pinkish or tawny cream-white at maturity. Jubata grass is easily confused with pampas grass, *Cortaderia selloana*. The two species are distinguished by stem height, leaf, plume, and spikelet color, florets, leaf tip, and presence of viable seed. The tussocks of jubata grass are less erect and more spreading and not fountain-like, when compared to tussocks of pampas grass.

Impacts: Jubata grass has the potential to greatly impact Oregon's coastal ecosystems. Escaped plants crowd out native vegetation and are very competitive in forestry operations. In clear cuts, jubata grass can out-compete seedling trees retarding their establishment and growth. It creates a fire hazard with an excessive build-up of dry leaves, leaf bases, and flowering stalks. Large clumps can complicate road access and fire management activities by blocking vehicles.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available.

