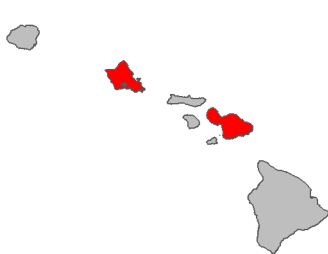


Fire risk report for *Cortaderia selloana*

Full Species Name <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> (Schult. & Schult.f.) Asch. & Graebn.
Family: Poaceae
Common names: pampas grass
Synonyms:
Known occurrences (as of 2020) 
Year first documented as naturalized in Hawai'i: 1989
This species has been ranked by the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment program as High Risk with a score of 24.
View photos on Starr Environmental
View on Wikipedia
View occurrences on iNaturalist
View at Plants of Hawaii
View photos on Flickr

0 | .5 1
Lowest risk ⇔ Highest risk

This species is likely a **high** fire risk in Hawai'i with a fire risk score of **0.72**.

This species was ranked by our machine learning algorithm using the data presented on the next page. A predicted score of > .34 suggests the plant is a high fire risk.

Summary of Fire ecology	
Native habitat fire proneness	Fire-prone
Fire promoting plant in its native range	Yes
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range*	Yes
Regenerates after fire	Yes
Promoted by fire	No Data
Reported flammable*	High
Relative is flammable*	Yes

*These values were used by the model to predict fire risk

Detailed summary of Fire Ecology

Native habitat fire proneness (In any part of the plant's native range is its habitat described as fire prone due to natural or human caused fires?)	Fire-prone	<p>"In its native range, in South America Cortaderia selloana grows in relatively damp soils and along river margins. C. selloana is found along streams and in the low wet areas of Argentina and southern Brazil." http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=373</p> <p>-----</p> <p>"This study adds information on the dynamics of pioneer forest trees in the face of frequent fire. In particular, effects of fire on the regeneration dynamics and ecological attributes of a Tessaria integrifolia forest and a Cortaderia selloana grassland, located in the Costanera Sur Ecological Reserve, Buenos Aires, are analyzed." #grassland must be flammable if they are studying the effects of frequent fire https://doi.org/10.1007/s11258-010-9855-1 Sirolli, H, and F Kalsenik. "Effects of Fire on a Forest-Grassland Ecotone in De La Plata River, Argentina." Plant Ecology 212 (2011): 689–700.</p>
Fire promoting plant in its native range (Does the species act as a major fuel source, increase fire severity, frequency, or modify fuel bed characteristics within its native range?)	Yes	<p>"A considerable association of C. selloana to fire disturbance was confirmed. This is consistent with Mutch's hypothesis (1970) which states that if species have developed reproductive mechanisms and anatomical mechanisms to survive periodic fires, then fire-dependent plants might also possess characteristics obtained through natural selection that actually enhance the flammability of these communities." https://doi.org/10.1007/s11258-010-9855-1 Sirolli, H, and F Kalsenik. "Effects of Fire on a Forest-Grassland Ecotone in De La Plata River, Argentina." Plant Ecology 212 (2011): 689–700.</p>
Fire promoting plant in its introduced range (Same as Fire Promoting Native but within the species introduced range)	Yes	<p>"it can form dense colonies that can become or increase fire hazards" http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=373</p> <p>-----</p> <p>"The build-up of dry leaves and senescing, flowering stalks produce large amounts of flammable material and increase fire hazards" https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/11872</p>
Regenerates after fire (Does the plant regrow)	Yes	"resprouts, establishes seedlings"

after fire by any means? This includes resprouters, reseeder, and recruiters which dispersed into the area within approximately one year post fire)		Allen, R. B., Basher, L. R., & Comrie, J. (1996). The use of fire for conservation management in New Zealand. Wellington: Department of Conservation.
Promoted by fire (Does the plant increase in abundance after a fire?)	No Data	#Limited data regarding post fire effects on this species
Reported flammable (Is the species described as being flammable, being a major wildfire fuel, or high fire risk?)	High	"it can form dense colonies that can become or increase fire hazards" http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=373 "C. seloana is considered to increase fire hazard because of the accumulation of dry leaves and flowering stalks on the plant." Vallejo, V. R., Arianoutsou, M., & Moreira, F. (2012). Fire ecology and post-fire restoration approaches in Southern European forest types. In Post-fire management and restoration of southern European forests (pp. 93-119). Springer, Dordrecht.
Relative is flammable (Does a plant in the same genus meet the Reported Flammable criteria?)	Yes	"Invasion by Cortaderia can drastically alter ecosystem properties (eg, flammability, diversity, food webs)" Pausas, Juli G., Francisco Lloret, and Montserrat Vila. ""Simulating the effects of different disturbance regimes on Cortaderia seloana invasion."" Biological conservation 128, no. 1 (2006): 128-135.

Text in quotes are direct quotes from the source

Text in square brackets was added by the assessor to clarify something or to summarize from a figure.

Text preceded by a “#” is comment from the assessor

The data presented were assembled from literature and database searches for each species using as much data as could be collected regarding the plant’s fire ecology under natural conditions. Searches aimed to be exhaustive and consist of as much data as could be located in 2020. Our machine learning algorithm was trained on 49 species of plants which had their fire risk ranked by 49 managers in Hawai’i in November 2020. The model used a conditional random forest regression algorithm to predict scores for each species using the manager score as the response variable and the fire ecology traits of each plant as the predictor variables to generate

a fire risk score. This trained model was then used to predict the fire risk for all species which were not ranked by managers. The model was calibrated such that it is 90% accurate at predicting high fire risk plants and 79% accurate at predicting low fire risk plants. This research and the resulting fire risk model has been published in the journal [Biological Invasions](#) by [Kevin Faccenda](#) and [Curt Daehler](#) (both at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa).

Note that the analysis doesn't account for a plant species' spatial distribution, population density, or distinct climate and ecosystem conditions (which can also influence fire risk). The fire risk of these species are mostly under "worst case" environmental conditions where the climate is dry enough to maintain fire, but wet enough to allow for plant growth and fuel accumulation. The fire risk ranking should not be taken as a stand-alone risk metric in prioritizing weed control efforts. Rather, this information may also be useful for determining if a newly discovered species poses a potential fire threat in wildland areas.

More general information on the weed risks and ecology of non-native plants in Hawai'i is available from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Committee's [Weed Risk Assessment database](#).

View more fact sheets at <https://www.pacificfireexchange.org/weed-fire-risk-assessments>

Fact sheet prepared by Kevin Faccenda (faccenda@hawaii.edu) in November 2021. Data were prepared by Ronja Steinbach and Kevin Faccenda in 2020.

This research was funded by the Department of the Interior Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center. The project described in this publication was supported by Grant or Cooperative Agreement No.G20AC00073 to Curt Daehler from the United States Geological Survey. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Geological Survey. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center or the National Climate Adaptation Science Center or the US Geological Survey.

