

**CONTROL OF PAMPAS GRASS (*CORTADERIA* SPP.) BY OVERSOWING WITH
SELECTED GRASS SPECIES**

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Pinus radiata growth is severely reduced by pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) in New Zealand. Although pampas can be controlled by herbicides, these only provide a temporary solution, are costly and will introduce pesticide residues into the environment. In an integrated approach to vegetation management, aggressive weeds maybe suppressed by oversowing with a more easily managed species. Suppression would be most effective if the oversown species produced an allelochemical in addition to competing for water, light, and nutrients.

A technique using water cultures is described for screening grass species and cultivars active against pampas. The roots of Italian rye grass and Yorkshire fog produced exudates which primarily affected pampas root production. The active chemical was only produced when the grasses were grown in nutrient solutions. These results were comparable to those obtained in pot trials.

The results of this trial and other published data, suggest that the establishment of specific grasses on forest sites potentially offers an environmentally acceptable method of controlling weeds, with the use of herbicides confined to spots around the trees.