



## Pampas Grass *Cortaderia selloana nana variegata*

03-32



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 3-24, H1	Full sun	Not picky about soils	Any amount of water	1-3 feet, white , to chamois or pink flower plumes during the summer	Established plant may reach 20 feet tall

Impressive size, graceful aspect, durable toughness, and spectacular flowers all combine to make pampas grass one of the most recognized plants in the landscape. The leaves are narrow, 1/2 to 3/4 in (1.3-1.9 cm) wide, and up to 10 ft (3 m) long. They are arranged in dense fountainlike clumps that are up to 12 ft (3.7 m) high and 6 ft (1.8 m) wide. The real show starts in midsummer when the flowers, spectacular 1 ft (0.3 m) tall white plumes, suddenly erupt above the foliage. The show continues well into winter as the feathery plumes persist and the foliage turns golden brown when touched by frost and cold weather (see photo below). When using the species you'll probably want to select female plants as they have prettier flowers - the males' are thinner, more elongated and not as full. This garden beauty commands attention wherever it is used.

Many varieties of pampas grass are available for use in the landscape. There are dwarf varieties (*C. selloana* 'Pumila') that are perfect for smaller spaces. Others have pastel colored flowers, while others provide an assortment of leaf variegations ('Silver Stripe', 'Gold Band'). Beware of a plant sometimes sold as "purple pampas grass." This is actually a different species (*C. jubata*) that is invasive in warm regions such as in California, where it invades natural habitats and displaces native species.