

Differences between Pampas and Toetoe

Table courtesy of Landcare Research – Manaaki Whenua

Telling the difference between pampas, toetoe and hunangāmoho

The pampas grasses, two introduced *Austroderia* species from South America, are similar in appearance to toetoe, but are serious weeds in northern parts of the country.

	Toetoe	Pampas
Flowering time	Spring, early summer (though retains flower heads)	Late January to late May
Flower head	Drooping	Erect, dense
Plume colour	White/cream	One species pink/purplish, drying to dirty brown, white
Leaf	Won't break when tugged firmly	Breaks
Leaf blade	Prominent veins either side of midrib	Only fine, indistinct veins either side of midrib
Midrib	Continues into leaf base	Does not continue into leaf base
Leaf base	White, waxy	Not waxy
Base of plant	Dead leaves don't form spiral	Old brown tightly curled, fractured leaf debris – like wood chips



Foliage details showing the coarse midrib and secondary veins of toetoe.
Image - Peter Sweetapple



Foliage details showing the fine secondary veins of pampas grass.
Image - Peter Sweetapple

One large native grass, the snow tussock or hunangāmoho, *Chionochloa conspicua*, can also be confused with toetoe.