

Identify invasives in your garden

June is a good time to identify invasive plants with plumes, berries and fruit.



Common pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)

Category 1 (remove and destroy)

This robust, tussock grass reaches up to 3.5m in diameter with flowering stalks reaching 4m high. Look out for the feathery silvery-white to pink or mauve plumes. This grass invades river banks and seasonally wet habitats.



Bloodberry (*Rivina humilis*)

Category 1 (remove and destroy)

A huge problem in KwaZulu-Natal, the bloodberry is a perennial herb growing up to 1m high. Look out for bright red berries it produces in winter, and appreciate that the leaves, roots and fruit are extremely poisonous. The plant competes with indigenous vegetation.



Moth catcher (*Araujia serifera*)

Category 1 (remove and destroy)

Early autumn and early winter is the time that this vigorous climber bears green, spongy fruits which turn brown and woody and split to release numerous blackish seeds. The seeds are poisonous and the white latex from the stems causes skin irritation.

Invasive alien species are considered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be the second greatest threat to biodiversity on Earth, after climate change.



Castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*)

Category 2 (needs a permit)

This whole plant is poisonous. Look out for star-shaped leaves and tall, spiky fruit capsules. Castor oil plants compete with indigenous pioneering species especially in watercourses across the country.

Interested in learning more about invasive species? Visit www.invasives.org.za