

BAMBOO

The various species of bamboo belong to the grass family (*Poaceae*), just as do maize, wheat, and the common grasses of lawns and meadows. Botanists consider the bamboos to be primitive “basal grasses” and place them in a unique subfamily, the *Bambusoideae*. With 100 distinct genera and over 1000 species, the bamboos include the tallest and fastest growing grasses in the world. They differ from most other grasses in having specialized woody stems called “culms”. Because many bamboos are evergreen, they make versatile landscape subjects, valued for use as natural screens, privacy hedges, or as dramatic specimens. Bamboos also give excellent service as soil stabilizers for erosion control on steep banks or stream edges, and they provide ideal noise baffles for abating urban traffic. Several varieties produce tender edible shoots, which may be harvested as they emerge from the ground and steamed for the table, and the larger bamboos provide a ready supply of sturdy canes invaluable for staking and light construction.

Because the bamboos offer unusually rapid growth, garden designers often use them to create instant landscape effects. Bamboo culms generally emerge and grow to their full height and thickness in only four to eight weeks. (According to David Farrelly in The Book of Bamboo some tropical species of bamboo have been observed growing as fast as 47.5" in a 24-hour period!) Initially the culms may be soft and fragile and will take up to a year to fully harden. New plantings generally increase only a few feet the first season, but the following year will often see new emerging culms as much as double in height and girth. The full size of each individual cane will be achieved the first year it emerges.

For practical horticultural purposes bamboos are classified into two main divisions: “running” and “clumping”. In the running bamboos (i.e. *Arundinaria*, *Phyllostachys*, *Pleioblastus*, *Pseudosasa*, *Sasa*, *Semiarundinaria*, etc.) the underground stems may grow rapidly to reach varying distances from the parent plants before sending up new vertical shoots or stems (“culms”). In the clumping bamboos (i.e. *Bambusa*, *Otatea*) the rhizomes generally creep only a short distance before sending up new shoots.

Water provides a natural barrier to the spread of the more aggressive running bamboos, as they will not grow beyond the edge of a pond or stream. Physical barriers such as 80-mil to 120-mil plastic also provide an effective means of control when correctly installed around the clumps. Simply cutting off new shoots as they emerge or regular mowing in a 25' band around the bamboo will generally contain running varieties as well.

Most bamboos respond readily to the addition of abundant water and fertilizers, especially those high in nitrogen. These may be offered through the spring and summer months, as long as the clumps are actively growing. Another element important for bamboo is silica, which helps to provide much of the strength in the bamboo's stems. This can be beneficially supplied through specific fertilizers, such as Dyna-Gro Pro-Tekt 0-0-3.

The genus ARUNDINARIA

From the Latin word “*harundo*”, a reed.

Subfamily: *Bambusoideae*

This once large genus of Asian and North American bamboos has been reduced to just a handful of varieties, all of a small to medium size, hardy, with elongate rhizomes. They have long-lived culm sheaths. *A. gigantea*, the only bamboo native to the United States, once grew from Texas to Georgia up to Ohio and Maryland forming vast thickets. They are useful for establishing screening and erosion control on banks, as their rhizomes can spread quite a distance rapidly.

Culture: *Arundinaria* grows well in sun to partial shade, most soils, liking regular amounts of moisture. The variety ‘*Tecta*’ is even able to withstand soggy ground.

Arundinaria gigantea

Common Name: Southern Canebrake, Macon Rivercane Bamboo

Cold Tolerance: -22°F (-30°C) **USDA Zones:** 6-11

Typical Height: 20' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1"

Habit: Running

Status: Available

Available Range: 7–15gal.



A. gigantea subspecies 'Tecta'

Common Name: Switchcane Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: -10°F (-23°C) **USDA Zones:** 6-11

Typical Height: 10' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1/2"
Habit: Running

Status: Available

Available Range: 7-15gal.

The genus BAMBUSIA

From a Malayan name for bamboo.

Subfamily: *Bambusoideae*

Bambusa is a large and variable genus comprised of evergreen clumping bamboo native to China and southeast Asia. Some of the species become huge, providing valuable timber as well as edible young shoots. Several are valued for garden adornment, with one species, *Bambusa multiplex*, providing numerous cultivars suitable for screens and general hedging in the southeastern U.S.

Culture: *Bambusa* species thrive in sun or light shade if provided with abundant moisture and rich soil. In hot interior climates or where drought may be expected some shading will be beneficial. Established plants will withstand flooding.



Bambusa beecheyana

Common Name: Beechey Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 15°F (-9°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 30'-50' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 5"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock

Available Range: 15-100gal. 10'-20' OA



Bambusa dolichomerithalla 'Green Stripe'

Cold Tolerance: 15°F (-9°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 25'-35' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: Available

Available Range: 15-30gal.



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Bambusa malingensis

Common Name: Seashore Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 20°F (-7°C) **USDA Zones:** 9-11

Typical Height: 15' – 20' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 2 1/2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–45gal. 8–14' OA

Bambusa multiplex

Common Name: Hedge Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 12°F (-11°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 15' – 20' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 7–45gal. 5'–15' OA

Bambusa multiplex 'Alphonse Karr'

Common Name: Alphonse Karr, Striped Hedge Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 12°F (-11°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 15' – 25' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–65gal. 10–20' OA



Bambusa multiplex 'Fernleaf'

Common Name: Fernleaf Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 12°F (-11°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 15' – 20' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1/2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–30gal. 6'–10' OA

Bambusa multiplex

'Golden Goddess'

Common Name: Golden Goddess Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 12°F (-11°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 10' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1/2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–45gal. 4'–10' OA



Bambusa multiplex 'Riviereorum'

Common Name: Chinese Goddess Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 12°F (-11°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 7' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1/4"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 7–15gal. 4'–6' OA

Bambusa multiplex 'Silver Stripe'

Common Name: Silver Stripe Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 12°F (-11°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 25' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–100gal. 10'–15' OA

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Bambusa oldhamii

Common Name: Giant Timber Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 15°F (-9°C)
USDA Zones: 8b-11

Typical Height: 40'–55'
Typical Cane Diameter: 4"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range:
10–300gal. B&B 8'–28' OA



Bambusa textilis

Common Name: Weavers Bamboo, Wong Chuk Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 12°F (-11°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 35' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–65gal.
10'–20' OA



Bambusa textilis var. gracilis

Common Name: Graceful Textile Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 15°F (-9°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 30' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/4"
Habit: Clumping

Status: Available
Available Range: 30–100gal.
10'–20' OA



Bambusa tuldooides

Common Name: Punting Pole Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 15°F (-9°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 40'–50' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 2 1/4"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–100gal. 10'–15' OA

Bambusa tuldooides 'ventricosa'

Common Name: Buddha's Belly Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 15°F (-9°C) **USDA Zones:** 8b-11

Typical Height: 40' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 2 1/4"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 30–100gal. 10'–20' OA

The genus HIBANOBAMBUSA

From the Japanese term translating "Bamboo growing on Hiba Mountain."

Subfamily: *Bambusoideae*

This genus consists of but one species plus one cultivar, and is believed to be a hybrid cross of *Sasa veitchii* and *Phyllostachys nigra 'Henon'*. It clearly shows characteristics of both genera, with its large Sasa-like leaves and the distinctive groove - "sulcus" - running along its canes.

Culture: *Hibanobambusa* needs a bit of shade, growing well in moderately, well-drained, non-alkaline soil, with moderate to regular watering. Doing quite well in warm and even tropical climates, these plants withstand windy conditions as well.

Hibanobambusa tranquillans 'Shiroshima'

Cold Tolerance: 0°F (-18°C) **USDA Zones:** 7-11

Typical Height: 12'–16' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/4"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15- 45gal.
4' - 8' OA



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The genus INDOCALAMUS

From the Latin “*indicus*”, of India, but often used, as in this instance, to refer to plants of China, and the Greek “*kalamos*”, a reed.

Subfamily: *Bambusoideae*

Indocalamus are a small, shrubby running bamboo native to China. These species are valued in gardens for their unusually lush foliage, which causes the slender canes to bend gracefully outwards, giving the clumps a rounded aspect. The dark green, oversized foliage often becomes straw colored at the tips during the winter, making a striking contrast in the landscape.

Culture: *Indocalamus* species thrive in partial sun or light shade if provided with abundant moisture and rich soil. In hot interior climates or where drought may be expected full shading will be beneficial. Established plants withstand flooding.

Indocalamus tessellatus

Common Name: Large-leafed Bamboo, *Sasa tessellata*
Cold Tolerance: 0°F (-18°C) **USDA Zones:** 7-9

Typical Height: 7' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1/2"
Habit: Running

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 7–15gal. 3 – 6' OA

The genus OTATAEA

From the Aztec “*otate*”, the vernacular name for members of the genus.

Subfamily: *Bambusoideae*

Otatea is a small genus of clumping bamboo native from western and southern Mexico to Guatemala. The arching culms carry feathery whorls of narrow, pale green leaflets that make this bamboo especially graceful and uniquely luminous in garden plantings. Although lush in appearance, *Otatea* comes from hot, seasonally arid regions and is a very enduring garden plant.

Culture: *Otatea* succeeds in full sun or shade and tolerates a wide range of soils, including limestone and heavy clay. The plants enjoy abundant moisture during their summer growing season, but will withstand drought once established.

Otatea acuminata

Common Name: Mexican Weeping Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 22°F (-6°C) **USDA Zones:** 9-11

Typical Height: 20' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/2"
Habit: Clumping

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–65gal. 4'– 8' OA



The genus

PHYLLOSTACHYS

From the Greek “*phyllon*”, leaf, and “*stachys*”, a spike, referring to the leafy bloom spike (*inflorescence*).

Subfamily: *Bambusoideae*

A diverse genus of about 15 species of evergreen running bamboo primarily native to temperate and subtropical China and Japan, *Phyllostachys* includes several popular bamboo of gardens as well as varieties valued for timber and for edible shoots. The rounded culms display distinctive grooves or compressed areas on the branching sides, making this genus fairly easy to recognize and distinguish from other bamboo. Their dense evergreen foliage, attractively marked and colored culms, and fast growth have made these running bamboos favorites for creating large groves, for screening and hedging, and for stabilizing rough slopes or streamsides. On small properties the spreading roots of *Phyllostachys* may be confined as desired by installing appropriate barriers at planting.

Culture: *Phyllostachys* species thrive in sun or light shade if provided with abundant moisture and rich soil. Where drought may be expected or in hot interior climates, some shading would be beneficial for most varieties. Established plants withstand flooding.

Phyllostachys angusta

Common Name: Stone Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 0°F (-18°C) **USDA Zones:** 7-9

Typical Height: 20' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/4"
Habit: Running

Status: Available
Available Range: 15–30 gal. 6' - 10' OA

Phyllostachys aurea

Common Name: Golden Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 0°F (-18°C) **USDA Zones:** 7-9

Typical Height: 22' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 3/4"
Habit: Running

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 15–30gal. 6'–15' OA

Phyllostachys aurea ‘Koi’

Common Name: Koi Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 0°F (-18°C) **USDA Zones:** 7-9

Typical Height: 22' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 3/4"
Habit: Running

Status: Available
Available Range: 10–30gal. 3' - 7' OA

Phyllostachys aureosulcata

Common Name: Yellow Groove Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: -10°F (-23°C) **USDA Zones:** 6-9

Typical Height: 27' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 1 1/2"
Habit: Running

Status: In Stock
Available Range: 5–100gal. 8 – 20' OA

Phyllostachys bambusoides

Common Name: Hardy Timber Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: 0°F (-18°C) **USDA Zones:** 7-9

Typical Height: 50'-60' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 5"
Habit: Running

Status: Available
Available Range: 15–100gal. 6'–25' OA



P. bambusoides ‘Allgold’

Common Name: Allgold Bamboo
Cold Tolerance: -5°F (-15°C) **USDA Zones:** 7b-9

Typical Height: 28' - 35' **Typical Cane Diameter:** 2"
Habit: Running

Status: Available
Available Range: 15–100gal. – 4'–12' OA