

BAMBOO

SUPPLIER OF NON-INVASIVE ORNAMENTAL TROPICAL BAMBOO PLANTS THAT ONLY GROW IN A CLUMPING MANNER

Bamboo is considered a giant grass that is one of the fastest growing woody plants on earth. Bamboo does much to heal the earth and improve the environment by producing clean air, halting erosion, building fertile ground, providing habitat for wildlife, creating canopy, and forming windbreaks, privacy hedges, and natural fences. Bamboo is vitally important in maintaining the balance of oxygen and nitrogen in the atmosphere, and its incredibly fast growth quickly re-establishes deforested areas. It also purifies the atmosphere and soil.

Bamboos have always been in Texas, and with responsible plantings and management of selected bamboos much could be done to improve our environment, keep us safer in storms and floods, produce valuable wood for paper and lumber, build habitat for wildlife, and stop erosion. As a sustainable and renewable resource, this plant is environmentally friendly.

Some people have had horrendous experiences with bamboo, but a little bit of knowledge can go a long way in deciding whether or not bamboo is right for you or your landscape. There are hundreds of varieties of bamboo and not all of them are horrors. The most important thing is to find a species that will not be invasive and overrun your property.

It is important to know that there are basically two types of bamboo – running and clumping. The runners are the ones that can take over a landscape if given half a chance. Leave running bamboo alone and it will lift sidewalks and driveways. Clumping bamboo species are recommended for planting in urban landscapes. Clumping bamboo is non-invasive, well-behaved, and require minimum maintenance and water. The semi-tropical bamboo are evergreen and winter hardy in South Texas.

Most bamboos are happiest in well-drained, highly organic soils. They need frequent, liberal watering, especially when getting established. Use mulch to help retain moisture. Gardeners need to exercise patience when taking on the bamboo challenge, because it takes several years (often 5 to 10) for bamboo to grow into the dense grove desired.

PORTFOLIO PAGE (the bamboo portfolio is the only one that will have text – you will have to match the picture with the bamboo description)

BAMBOO : A Selection Guide

Bambusa oldhamii

“Giant Timber Bamboo”

Well-known classic tropical bamboo. Straight and erect culms and growth pattern, short branches, wide leaves. Culm walls are thick but soft – shoots are edible. Tropical, deep green foliage.
Maximum Height – 55 Feet
Maximum Diameter – 4 Inches

Bambusa multiplex

“Alphonse Karr”

Culms and branches are bright yellow with irregular longitudinal narrow dark green stripes. New shoots and culms are often reddish. Evergreen and hardy.
Maximum Height – 20 Feet
Maximum Diameter – 1 ½ Inches

Gigantochloa atroviolacea

“Tropical Black”

Brown to black culms striped green. Dark-green foliage. Java/Tropical black. Tight clumper but opens up as culms arch outward like a fountain. Rare – Collector Bamboo
Maximum Height – 40 Feet
Maximum Diameter – 3 Inches

Bambusa vulgaris vittata

“Golden Hawaiian” “Painted Bamboo”

Bright yellow culms randomly striped with dark green stripes that look like drip marks. Striking ornamental. Very popular and easily recognizable. Fairly drought resistant. Vigorous grower.
Maximum Height – 50 Feet
Maximum Diameter – 4 Inches

Bambusa textilis

“Weaver’s Bamboo”

Striking appearance with almost vertical culms. Internodes are long and branching starts quite high. Appearance is neater and more compact than oldhammii. Tolerates cold better than most Bambusas.

Maximum Height – 40 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 2 Inches

Bambusa chungii

“Tropical Blue Bamboo” “Blue Ghost”
“White Bamboo”

Slightly open clumber – stunning mystical bamboo. Culms are covered with persistent dense white bloom giving a pale blue appearance.

Maximum Height – 40 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 2 Inches

Bambusa tuldooides ventricosa

“Buddah’s Belly”

Grows in an open clump and produces a large number of zig-zag culms. Produces “bellies” swollen inter-nodes in drought conditions or when stressed (especially in pots).

Maximum Height – 55 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 2 ¼ Inches

Bambusa lako

“Timor Black”

Rare Ornamental – Purple-black culms striped faint green. Culms emerge green and mature to a shiny black (almost purplish tint). Has branches on lower part of culms. Similar to Gigantochloa atrovioleacea.

Maximum Height – 45 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 3 ½ Inches

Bambusa vulgaris wamin

“Dwarf Buddah Belly” “Wamin”

Valuable ornamental. Very unusual culms with pronounced nodes “bellies. Extremely striking ornamental.

Maximum Height – 16 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 3 Inches

Dendrocalamus minor “Amoneus”

“Angel Mist”

Rare Ornamental – beautiful whitish bloom combined with irregular culm stripes combine to present an eye-catching appearance. Generally is tight clumping with no low branching.

Maximum Height – 30 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 3 Inches

Bambusa tuldoides ventricosa

“Kimmei” “Striped Buddah’s Belly”

Rare Ornamental – yellow culms with green vertical stripes and variegated leaves – occasional swollen nodes “bellies” and pink coloration. Excellent for bonsai.

Maximum Height – 30 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 2 Inches

Bambusa multiplex

“Tiny Fern”

Very rare dwarf form of Chinese Goddess. Beautiful foliage and form with leaves often less than ¼” long. Highly prized ornamental.

Maximum Height – 3 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 1/8 Inch

Bambusa multiplex riviereorum

“Chinese Goddess”

Solid culms, beautiful light green foliage with tiny leaves growing in a fountain form. Favored ornamental that is evergreen,

clump forming, and a rapid grower – similar to Fern Leaf but smaller, more delicate looking.

Maximum Height – 8 Feet

Maximum Diameter – ¼ Inch

Bambusa multiplex

“Fern Leaf”

May grow much taller in South and Southeast Texas – beautiful, tropical, “fern like” foliage. Some culms bear leaves of the typical form.

Maximum Height – 20 Feet

Maximum Diameter – ½ Inch

Bambusa multiplex

“Golden Goddess”

Beautiful smaller form – extremely fast growing. Dwarf form of multiplex but similar to Fern Leaf, but with larger leaves. Culms tend to be yellowish. Hardy and evergreen foliage in South and Southeast Texas.

Maximum Height – 12 Feet

Maximum Diameter – ½ Inch

Bambusa eululdoides viridi-vittata

“Asian Lemon Bamboo”

Highly coveted ornamental – New culms have pink and peach tones with green stripes. Established culms are yellow with green stripes.

Maximum Height – 25 Feet

Maximum Diameter – ½ Inch

Bambusa multiplex

“Stripestem Fern Leaf”

Small in size and densely compact with many very small leaves on each branch. New shoots and young culms are red with green stripes – the red eventually changes to yellow as culm matures. Always a mixture

of beautiful colors as the culms are in various stages of development.

Maximum Height – 12 Feet

Maximum Diameter – ½ Inch

Dendrocalamus strictus

“Iron Bamboo” “Male Bamboo”

Lower parts of culms are sometimes solid.

Highly ornamental cultivar with small slender leaves and a willowy overall appearance.

Maximum Height – 40 Feet

Maximum Diameter – 2 ½ Inches

(I thought maybe this could be a page that is not always displayed, but something they can click on if they should need the info....I will leave it up to you for what you think is the best)

BAMBOO MAINTENANCE & CARE

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Dig a hole that's a bit larger than the size of the pot. Take care, if possible, to incorporate a well decomposed manure or a rich fertilizer.
2. Remove the plant from the pot. You may have to cut the pot from the bamboo plant if it doesn't slide out easily. If the roots are tightly wrapped in the shape of the pot, you can score them a few times with a knife to help them to discontinue growing in a circular pattern. If you see any new shoots forming, avoid this area with your knife.
3. Set the plant in the hole so that the soil with the plant is even with the level of the existing soil.
4. Backfill with existing soil mixed with a rich topsoil or manure compost. Make sure there are no air pockets around the root ball.
5. Water the bamboo immediately after planting. Watering will be made easier by forming a crater around the plant.
6. Water well and often but do not keep your bamboo's roots constantly submerged in a boggy swamp. Good drainage is important – deep waterings, no standing water after a few hours is your goal. If the leaves start to curl, your bamboo is not getting enough water. If the leaves stay open but the majority are yellow, the roots may be drowning and rotting. This is rare – not enough water during establishment is, by far, the most common problem. You will have to water daily for at least a month to insure the roots become established in the existing soil. Tropical bamboos are among the easiest plants to grow so you should have no problems.
7. Add mulch around your bamboo and always maintain a good layer of mulch. Fertilize every three or four months with a palm or bamboo fertilizer.

MAINTENANCE/CARE/UPKEEP

1. There are four conditions that optimize the growth of tropical bamboos: sunlight, regular irrigation, good drainage, and at least occasional fertilization. If any of these conditions is lacking, the growth rate will be affected in direct

proportion to the deficiency. You can certainly have beautiful bamboo, but again, the growth rate will not be maximized.

2. The ground next to the plants must not be worked deeply; this would damage the rhizomes, which grow relatively near the surface.
3. Weeding is only necessary during the first two years; afterwards, the plant is sufficiently developed to prevent grass from growing. Fallen leaves must be left on the ground as they keep it damp, and their decomposition enriches the soil. This also prevents the growth of grass.
4. In order to control their spreading, the new shoots must be cut back as soon as they appear in unsuitable areas.

SUNLIGHT

Most tropical bamboos grow quicker and do their best in full sun. As long as at least four hours of sun reaches the leaves, your tropical bamboo will be happy. If grown in broken light or partial sun, the number of shoots per year will not be as high as if it were in full sun.

WATERING

When you first plant your bamboo you will need to make sure that it has enough water every day for at least a month or so. Even if watered daily, watch the leaves of your new bamboo. If they start to curl, the bamboo needs more water. This is easily the number one problem reported by new growers. The frequency of watering not only depends on the species but also on the soil's ability to retain water as well as on local climatic conditions (rainfall, wind, heat...). All bamboos can be watered by either spraying or by dripping.

DRAINAGE

The most important part of your bamboo plant is under ground. The rhizome and root system will not survive if planted in muck or boggy conditions. Good drainage is important. If necessary build up a small berm and plant in this area so that excess water can drain into lower areas.

FERTILIZING AND MULCH

New bamboos can be fertilized with a balanced lawn or, especially, palm fertilizer. After the first year, high nitrogen formulas can be used. Iron supplements are beneficial. If your soil is somewhat alkaline, there are many sulphur/iron mixes (granular or liquid) that work well and show favorable results quickly. Don't use a weed-n-feed lawn fertilizer.

Compost and mulch are the easiest way to maintain healthy soil and bamboos. If your mulch is fresh and uncomposted, fertilize before mulching. The microorganisms that break down the mulch will rob the nitrogen from the soil so you'll have to feed them as well as the bamboo.

PRUNING/TRIMMING

After the second year you can remove some of the original growth. Do not take more than 1/3 of the culms. Cut out only the old culms (usually the

smallest in the clump). Cut them near the base, just above a node. If a culm is tan, it's dead and should be removed. You can thin the clump each year. Avoid removing the newest culms unless they are growing awkwardly or into an unwelcome area. You can also remove branches to reveal the canes or to create a more open effect.

Dwarf bamboo is generally more attractive if pruned every year at the end of winter. It needs to be cut down to the ground (this can be done every two years). Then it grows thicker and denser. The other varieties can also be cut to form a hedge, or to limit the growth, or even to shape them. The plants must be trimmed when the young shoots stop their growth and leaves appear. The interesting thing about trimming bamboos is that it is done only once a year; at the very most a second trimming will be done a few days later, because the last shoots have still grown, but is generally sufficient. Apart from modifying the stature of the plant, trimming also makes the foliage denser.

If you're planting several bamboos to create a screen, hedge, or windbreak, the spacing will vary depending on the species, density required, and the speed required for establishment. Tropical bamboos can be planted as close as 3 feet on center, but 5 feet on centers is the average spacing.