

# Bamboo

## Info Sheet

No group of plants is as misunderstood as bamboo. It is commonly believed that all kinds of bamboo spread uncontrollably unless contained by underground barriers. However, bamboo can be divided into two categories — running (monopodial) and clumping (sympodial). Running bamboo does spread far and wide and should be planted only after careful consideration.

Fortunately, our soil and climate are favorable for clumping bamboo. The canes, or culms, of these species all grow from a central point and do not spread out of control. Clumping bamboo may be found in many sizes and growth habits; their prices are largely determined by the difficulty of propagation, which in some species is difficult indeed.

Once planted, bamboo grows quickly and easily. Newly planted clumps should be watered at least every other day. When bamboo wilts, the leaves curl lengthwise into a tubular shape. This should not be allowed to happen. Regular fertilizing with a quality, balanced, granular fertilizer with a full range of micronutrients such as **Plant-Tone**, will keep your bamboo green and vigorous.

Bamboo clumps should be thinned by removing dead culms periodically. This allows new growth to occur in the center of the clump.

### CLUMPING BAMBOO

**Riveorum Bamboo (*Bambusa multiplex*)**- A dwarf clumper, Riveorum has a weeping habit. Very cold hardy. Grows to 8' tall or less.

**Golden Goddess (*Bambusa multiplex*)**- A dwarf clumper. Most common dwarf bamboo in Central Florida. Very cold hardy. Good for screening. Grows to 10 ft.

**Giant Timber Bamboo (*Bambusa oldhami*)**- Slightly larger than *B. vulgaris* and much more cold hardy. This is a very straight and upright grower. Somewhat difficult to propagate.

**Tropical Blue Bamboo (*Bambusa chungii*)**-Has upright culms as high as 60 ft., or more. The new canes are covered with a persistent, bluish, powdery bloom.

**Buddha's Belly (*Bambusa ventricosa*)**- One of the best bamboo for container growing and bonsai's because it dwarfs easily. When grown in a container, the stems produce the curious bulging or Buddha's Belly effect. When planted in the ground, this versatile plant grows to be a rather large, vigorous and beautiful clump. Very cold hardy. Rockledge Gardens' version has variegated stems. Grows to 40 ft.

**Timber Bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris*)**- The largest bamboo commonly grown in Brevard County. This plant is well adapted to Central Florida conditions.

### *Bambusa spp.*

A fast grower, difficult to contain in small pots since it does not take well to dwarfing. Hardy to 27 degrees. Wood has many uses. Grows to 50 ft.

**Wamin Bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris*)**-An easy to grow and very unusual cultivar, often mistakenly referred to as "Buddha's Belly". Grows 12-15 ft. tall with attractive bulging stems. A striking specimen plant.

**Hawaiian Stripe (*Bambusa vulgaris*)**- Golden, yellow stems marked with green stripes, make this one of the most sought after bamboo. It is somewhat cold sensitive, however, is hardy to about 27 degrees. Grows to 50 ft.

**Tropical Black Bamboo (*Gigantochloa atrovioleacea*)**- Black stems, very large, fast growing, and not cold hardy.

***Bambusa mutabilis***- Medium sized, upright and tree-like bamboo. Very cold hardy and colorful.

**Timor Black Bamboo (*Bambusa lako*)**-Beautiful black culms to 60ft. or more. Rather upright, but not cold hardy.

**Weaver's Bamboo (*Bambusa textilis* RG)**- A dwarf version of *Bambusa textilis*. Excellent for screening. Very cold hardy. Grows 15-20 ft. tall.

***Dendrocalamus amoenus "minor"***- A cold hardy clumper with very large leaves and variegated white and bluish green culms. Grows to 20-30 feet.

### RUNNING BAMBOO

**Arrow Bamboo (*Pseudosasa japonica*)**- Stems are straight as an arrow and about as thick. The papery sheaths adhere to the stem partially obscuring it. The leaves are quite large and pointed. Arrow bamboo is a slow runner and easy to contain. It is very cold hardy and prefers light shade in Florida. Grows to 15 ft.

# Rockledge Gardens



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