

No group of plants is as misunderstood as [bamboo](#). It is commonly believed that bamboo spreads uncontrollably unless contained by underground barriers.

However, bamboo can be divided into two categories—running (monopodial) and clumping (sympodial). Running bamboo spreads far and wide and should be planted only after careful consideration.

Fortunately, in Brevard County 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, and their prices are largely determined by the difficulty of propagation, which in some species is difficult indeed.

Site Selection

Site selection is perhaps the most important factor when planting bamboo. Most bamboo planted in central Florida are used for screening purposes, to block an undesirable view or to provide privacy.

The usual tendency is to plant the clump on or near the fence or property line. This should be done only with the smallest kinds of bamboo. All of the large or medium-sized species should be planted some distance away from the fence to allow for expansion of the clump. Just as you would not plant a large tree on your property line, you should not do the same with the larger bamboo.

All of the bamboo we sell can be used for screening purposes. Use the bamboo info chart below to determine which species or variety has the size and growth habit that will best suit your needs.

Bamboo Info Sheet Planting & Watering

For planting and watering information, please see [our Youtube channel](#) and watch our [Proper Plant Installation](#) video.

Bamboo Care

When bamboo does not receive an adequate amount of water, it will wilt, and the leaves curl lengthwise into a tubular shape.

Once planted, bamboo grows quickly and easily. Regular fertilizing with a quality, granular fertilizer with a full range of micronutrients such as [Espoma Plant-Tone](#), [Harrell's 11-4-11](#) or [Osmocote Plus](#), will keep your bamboo green and vigorous.

Pests

Bamboo can suffer from minor infestations of scale insects or from mealybugs.

Scale on the culms is not a serious problem and can be rinsed or scrubbed off with a soft brush. Mealybugs on newly emerging culms and scales on the foliage of *Bambusa vulgaris* varieties can be controlled by spraying in the early stages of infestation with [All Seasons Horticultural Oil](#).

For heavier infestations, control with [FertiLome Systemic Insect Drench](#).

[Ladybugs](#) do a great job of keeping culm scales in check. Check out our blog on [how to attract ladybugs](#) to your yard.

Pruning

In most cases, bamboo pruning consists of simply removing dead culms. This allows new growth to occur in the center of the clump.

The logo for Rockledge Gardens features the company name in a teal, serif font. The word "Rockledge" is on the top line and "Gardens" is on the bottom line. A decorative teal swoosh underline is positioned beneath the word "Gardens".

Bamboo Species at Rockledge Gardens

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (feet)	Culm Width	Overall Shape	Cold Tolerance	Salt Tolerance	Comments
<i>Bambusa chungii</i>	Tropical Blue Bamboo	30-35	2"	Upright	Hardy	Low	Upright culms; powdery blue color; moderately dense clump
<i>Bambusa eutuldoides</i> 'viridi-vittata'	Asian Lemon Bamboo	20-25	2"	Semi-upright	Hardy	Low	Beautifully variegated culms, dense. View a specimen in our Zen Garden.
<i>Bambusa lako</i>	Timor Black Bamboo	30-40	3"	Semi-upright	Tender	Low	Culms start off green then turn shiny black with green stripes; dense clumper
<i>Bambusa multiplex</i> 'golden goddess'	Golden Goddess Bamboo or Hedge Bamboo	10	½"	Sprawling	Hardy	Low	Very dense, dwarf, can be sheared with hedge clippers or grown as a backdrop
<i>Bambusa multiplex</i> 'riviereorum'	Chinese Goddess Bamboo or Riviereorum Bamboo	6-9	¼"	Weeping	Hardy	Low	Weeping dwarf. Our smallest bamboo. Delicate in appearance but easy to grow.
<i>Bambusa mutabilis</i>	Emerald Bamboo	25-30	2"	Upright	Hardy	Low	Very dense culms make a great screen. Tree-like with no foliage below 6 feet.
<i>Bambusa oldhamii</i>	Giant Timber Bamboo	40-60	4"	Upright	Hardy	Low	Very large, moderately dense. Great for screening large eyesores.
<i>Bambusa pervariabilis</i> 'viridistriata'	Sunburst Bamboo	35-45	2 ½"	Upright	Hardy	Low	Hardy substitute for Hawaiian Stripe.
<i>Bambusa textilis</i> 'gracilis'	Graceful Bamboo	20-25	1"	Semi-upright	Hardy	Low	Good medium-sized, very dense and leafy. Slightly weeping slender clumps.
<i>Bambusa textilis</i> 'RG' (RG = Rockledge Gardens)	Dwarf Weaver's Bamboo	20	1"	Upright	Hardy	Low	Our own variety; modest sized, dense clumper. Great for screening.
<i>Bambusa ventricosa</i> 'kimmei'	Variegated Buddha Belly Bamboo	40-50	3"	Sprawling	Hardy	Low	Huge, dense. Screens the interstate and tall buildings, but requires a lot of space. Only potted specimens form bellies.
<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i> 'wamin'	Wamin Bamboo	12-15	3"	Upright	Semi-hardy	Moderately tolerant	Most popular bamboo. Not to be confused with Buddha Belly, which

							“out-bellies” by a mile.
<i>Bambusa vulgaris vittata</i>	Hawaiian Stripe Bamboo	40-50	4”	Semi-upright	Semi-hardy	Moderately tolerant	Exactly the same as Common Timber except for green and yellow striped culms.
<i>Dendrocalamus minor ‘amoenus’</i>	Dendrocalamus Stripe or Angel Mist Bamboo	20-30	2-2 ½”	Semi-upright	Semi-hardy	Low	Large leaves on beautiful, slender, arching striped (cream and green) culms; forms a dense clump.
<i>Gigantochloa atrovioleacea</i>	Tropical Black Bamboo	30-40	3”	Semi-upright	Tender	Low	Large black culms with green stripes and a matte finish; cold sensitive
<i>Otatea aztecorum</i>	Mexican Weeping Bamboo	12-20	1”	Weeping	Hardy	Low	Unusual weeping habit; only available occasionally; difficult to propagate
<i>Pseudosasa japonica</i>	Japanese Arrow Bamboo	12-15	¾”	Upright, runner	Hardy	Low	The only running bamboo that we sell. Does well in containers. Prefers light shade, but it will tolerate sun.