

# 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 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; 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 of the bamboos planted in central Florida are used for screening purposes, that is, 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 bamboos. Any of the bamboos that we sell can be used for screening purposes. Use the bamboo info chart on the back to determine which species or variety has the size and growth habit that will best suit your needs.

### Planting & Watering

For planting and watering information, please see our handout “Establishing and Caring for New Plants”.

### Care

When bamboo wilts, the leaves curl lengthwise into a tubular shape. This is a sign that it is not getting enough water and should not be allowed to happen. 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 occasionally suffers from minor infestations of scale insects or from mealybugs. Scale on the culms is not a serious problem and can be rinsed or even scrubbed off with a soft brush. **Ladybugs** also do a good job of keeping culm scales in check. 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 **Ferti-Lome Systemic Insect Drench**.

### Pruning

In most cases bamboo pruning consists of little more than periodically removing dead culms. Thinning allows new growth to occur in the center of the clump.

# Rockledge Gardens

**Naturally beautiful and fun!**

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# BAMBOO SPECIES at Rockledge Gardens

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	Height (feet)	Culm width	Overall Shape	Cold	Salt Tolerance	Comments
<i>Bambusa chungii</i>	Tropical Blue Bamboo	30-35	2 inches	upright	hardy	low	Upright culms; powdery blue color; moderately dense clump
<i>Bambusa eulaloides 'viridi-vittata'</i>	Asian Lemon Bamboo	20-25	2"	semi-upright	hardy	low	Beautifully variegated culms, dense. View a specimen in our Asian 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. Semi-upright; dense clumper.
<i>Bambusa multiplex 'golden goddess'</i>	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 'riveorum'</i>	Chinese Goddess Bamboo or Riveorum Bamboo	6-8	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 'viridi-striata'</i>	Sunburst Bamboo	35-45	2 ½"	upright	hardy	low	Hardy substitute for Hawaiian Stripe.
<i>Bambusa textilis 'gracilis'</i>	Graceful Bamboo	20-25	1"	semi-upright	hardy	low	Good medium-sized, very dense and leafy. Slightly weeping slender culms.
<i>Bambusa textilis 'RG'</i> (RG = Rockledge Gardens)	Dwarf Weaver's Bamboo	20	1"	upright	hardy	low	Our own variety of modest sized, dense clumper. Great for screening.
<i>Bambusa ventricosa 'kimmer'</i>	Variegated Buddha Belly Bamboo	40-50	3"	sprawling	hardy	low	Huge, dense. Screens the interstate & tall buildings, but requires a lot of space. Only potted specimens form bellies.
<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>	Common Timber Bamboo	40-50	4"	semi-upright	semi-hardy	moderately tolerant	Easy to grow, foliage thins in winter. Open at the bottom. A loose clumper.
<i>Bambusa vulgaris 'wamin'</i>	Wamin Bamboo	12-15	3"	upright	semi-hardy	moderately tolerant	Most popular bamboo. Not to be confused with Buddha Belly, which it "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 & 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 & 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.