

Bambusa, Bamboo (*Poaceae*)

Bamboo is the common name used to indicate 20 genera of plants belonging to the Poaceae family. The most important of these are *Arundinaria*, *Bambusa*, *Dendrocalamus*, *Fargesia*, *Phyllostachys*, *Pleioblastus*, *Pseudosasa* and *Sasa*. In all, the 20 genera include about 200 evergreen species native above all to Asia, species of different sizes (from 40-60cm for some dwarf Bamboo plants, to the giant plants which measure 25-30m). All species produce woody culms divided into canes. In their native countries cultivation of Bamboo goes back to ancient times. In those days Bamboo was used, and is still used today, not just for decorative purposes but to make receptacles, furniture, boats and houses. The young shoots are edible. In the West, Bamboo has only recently become popular, but over recent years its popularity has grown enormously. People love the bright green foliage, the multicoloured stalks, the delicate texture of the branches, the elegant, harmonious shape, the touch of the exotic. In gardens and parks they are used for group planting, hedges near or alongside water features. Bamboo can be grown in pots or troughs and are now indispensable for modern decorations , from the most simple to the more prestigious.

MEDIUM AND GIANT BAMBOOS



Bambusa metake (*Arundinaria japonica*) (*Pseudosasa japonica*)

Origin. China, Japan, Korea. Clumping Bamboo with rather thin culms (2-3cm diameter) which grow straight up and close together, covered in a sheath which is at first pale green, later brown and persisting for a long time. Evergreen leaves, 10-30cm long, 2-3cm wide, are bright, deep green on the upper side, glaucous on the underside. Tolerates relative drought, grows well in pots and indoors.

Bambusa



Bambusa metake "variegata" (Pseudosasa japonica variegata)

Forms large bushes made up of slender purple culms which droop gracefully at the ends. Leaves, up to 20cm long, bright yellow stripes, resist cold and drought. Creates eye-catching splashes of colour, grows well in troughs and on balconies, even sunny one, grows indoors if light is sufficient.

Phyllostachys aurea

Origin: China. Running Bamboo with culms which reach a diameter of 3-5cm when mature and are green when they come out of the ground, becoming greenish-yellow. They are very unusual because the basal internodes become enlarged and thicken out asymmetrically. The sheaths are smooth, green tinged with pink with splashes of purple-brown; the sheaths rapidly disappear. Leaves: this is the Bamboo with a lot of foliage from the base to the tip of the culms. The leaves are evergreen, dense, pale green and 12-15cm long, 2cm wide. It is the most popular variety and also the best for growing in pots. The shoots are edible.



Bambusa



**Phyllostachys aureosulcata
"aureocaulis"**

Origin: China. Very running. The culms are completely yellow, sometimes striped green at the base, rather thin and gradually thickening until they reach a diameter of 4-5cm. Dark green sheaths, tinged pink with white stripes. Leaves: evergreen, 15cm long, 2cm wide, vivid green edged (sometimes) in white at the beginning of the season. Very susceptible to wind.

Phyllostachys aureosulcata "spectabilis"

Origin: China. Very running. It grows in thick bushes formed from culms 3-4cm in diameter which in spring are a magnificent and unusual orangey-purple; they then change to yellow with internodes alternately striped in green. Does not withstand strong winds.



Bambusa



Phyllostachys bissetii

Origin: China. Running Bamboo with culms 2-3cm in diameter, glossy, dark green covered here and there in a silvery bloom. Pale green and yellowish sheath, tinged sometimes in purple; they do not last long. Deep, bright green evergreen leaves, 8-12cm long, numerous and dense. This Bamboo is greatly admired for the foliage.

Phyllostachys nigra

Origin: China. Running Bamboo. Mature culms are 2-4cm in diameter, sprout green, becoming gradually darker- from the second/third year they turn ebony. The sheaths are thick and coriaceous, brown or violet and quickly dry up and fall off. Leaves: evergreen, glossy dark green, 8-10cm long, 1-1.30cm wide. Requires a sheltered position away from gusts of wind which can damage the foliage



Bambusa



***Phyllostachys nigra* "henonis"**

Origin: China. Fast growing running bamboo. Olive-green straight culms, that can acquire reddish-black patches over time. Fine, but very dense dark green foliage.

***Phyllostachys viridis* (*Phyllostachys mitis*)**

Origin: China. Running Bamboo. Out of the Bamboos that we grow, this is the tallest and has the largest culms (10cm diameter). These culms are at first upright and then gracefully arched, pale green and, in the first years, their nodes are covered in a ring of silvery bloom. The pale green foliage is abundant. The edible young shoots have a delicious taste.



Bambusa



Phyllostachys vivax "aureocaulis"

Origin: China. Running bamboo with very large culms (8-10cm in diameter), bright yellow with green stripes. Leaves: 16cm long, 1.5cm wide, bright green. Even though the leaves are numerous they do not obscure the magnificent colouring of the culms. Grows well in all positions. Because it is exceptionally resistant to cold it is suitable to the climate of Northern Europe.

Pleioblastus gramineus (Arundinaria graminea)

Origin: Japan. Clumping Bamboo with upright culms, 3-5cm in diameter, deep green, covered in a long lasting sheath. Leaves up to 20cm long and up to 3cm wide, glossy green, dense, soft, weeping, very elegant.



Bambusa



**Pseudosasa japonica
"tsutsumiana"**

Origin: China, Japan. Clumping bamboo which looks like *Bambusa metake* from which it differs because of the very ornamental swollen internodes. Does not withstand full sunlight.

Bambusa

SMALL BAMBOOS



Fargesia angustissima

Forms dense bushes made of slender culms packed close, topped by delicate foliage cascading down. Withstands cold extremely well; in very hot regions, avoid very sunny positions. Used for isolated clumps or in window-boxes.

Fargesia murielae "jumbo"

More vigorous than the above and more compact, with wider leaves. Same growing requirements and use.



Bambusa



Fargesia murielae
"super jumbo"

Clumping bamboo with yellow canes that branch in the first year, then curve under the weight of bright green lanceolate leaves. Growing requirements and use: as above.

Fargesia rufa

New selection of Chinese origin. Develops numerous rather reddish culms, whose sheaths are tinged with pale orange-red or pink. Light green leaves, downward growing. Excellent for groups, low hedges, pots and troughs.





Sasa palmata "nebulosa"

Origin: Japan. Running Bamboo which forms splendid round groups. Thin culms (1-1.5cm in diameter) which turn black with age. Large, elongate leaves (up to 28cm), glossy green and arranged like palm leaves.

Bambusa

DWARF BAMBOOS

All native to Japan and all running, these dwarf Bamboos have extremely thin culms, covered thickly in small leaves arranged evenly for its entire length. They are very useful in gardens, underwoods, borders, as ground cover and in rock gardens. Also widely used in pots and troughs. They are more attractive, more compact and denser if pruned at the end of winter.



Bambusa nana (Pleioblastus pumilus) (Sasa pumila)

Distinctive because of the extremely regular arrangement of its small, bright green leaves 5-6cm long, 1cm wide. Very compact, ideal for small borders, lawns, undergrowth and for reinforcing sloping ground.

Bambusa nana aureostriata (Pleioblastus viridistriatus)

Leaves 18-20cm long, 2-2.5cm wide. Much admired for the bright foliage, variegated in golden yellow and green. Does not withstand very hot sun at the beginning of summer.



Bambusa

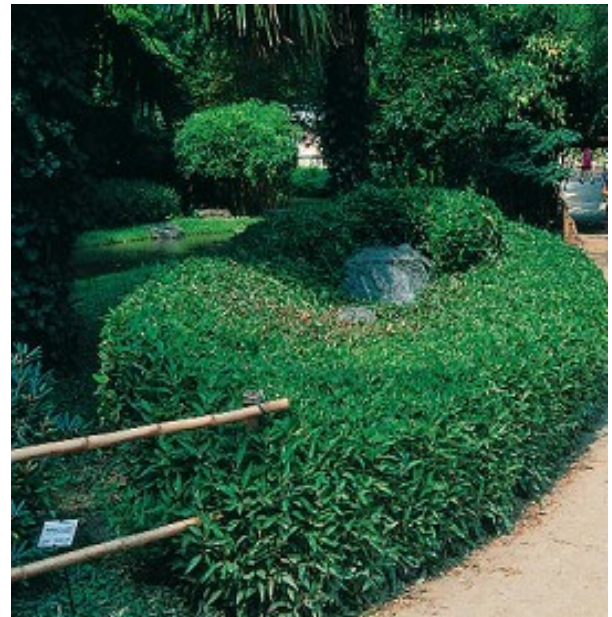


**Bambusa nana longifolia
(sasa veitchii)**

Very wide leaves (4-5cm), 20-25cm long, bright green. The leaves usually become cream around the edges when the weather turns cold.

**Bambusa nana ruscifolia
(Shibataea kumasaca)**

Unusual dwarf bamboo, unique because of the short, wide leaves which look like the leaves of the Ruscus. Very dense growth. Requires fresh soils. Very susceptible to wind in winter. Suitable for borders and for forming hedges, either wild or clipped or as ground cover.



Bambusa



Bambusa nana shibuyanensis
"tsuboi"
(*Pleioblastus shibuyanensis*
"tsuboi")

Slender, erect culms. Dense foliage, variegated green and creamy-white. Recommended for groups, hedges, containers, troughs.

Bambusa nana variegata
(*Pleioblastus fortunei*)

leaves 10-11cm long, 1-1.5cm wide, with green and white stripes. Upright habit, dense and bushy. Suitable for borders and to reinforce sloping land .

