

Wallsend Nurseries

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Bamboo Cultural Notes



Clumping bamboos produce new shoots from Summer through Autumn , getting bigger each year until mature size is reached in 3-5 years depending on variety & growing conditions.

Clumping bamboos are non-invasive & , although they do gradually form large clumps, these are easily contained. They DO NOT produce the massive underground rhizome system (runners) that ordinary bamboos produce so they can't spread over large distances nor invade gardens , etc. They DO make attractive large clumps which can be used for Japanese gardens , tub culture ,screening purposes or as specimen plants. Some varieties even produce new growth that is edible whilst still in the young stage. Just ask any Panda Bear!!

As with all bamboos they are very tough , hardy plants & will tolerate cold conditions to -10 deg.

Bamboos are not fussy as to soil types although good drainage is preferred. Poor soils & dry conditions are well tolerated once they are well established (about 1 year). Open sunny positions are ideal but most of the varieties are tolerant of some shade & a few are even ok to grow under indoor conditions. Some complete fertiliser can be applied during the growing season to maintain vigour & watering during dry weather helps prevent possible pre-mature leaf fall which can sometimes occur if the plant is too dry over a long period. Prune as the plants grow to remove dead culms & they will look good all year round.

Some varieties are:

B. oldhamii

Large , very upright. Lower one third is branchless. Edible shoots. Drought & frost hardy to -10deg. Widely used in New Zealand as a tall hedging plant.

B. glaucescens types . Also known as "Hedge Bamboos"

"Silverstripe"-Largest of the hedging types. Has a bulky urn shape when mature. Grows 8-10m x 6m

"Alphonse Karr" - Smaller , more upright . Very decorative with it's yellowish stems striped bright green at irregular intervals along the internodes. Grows 6-8m tall x 4m wide.

"Fernleaf"- Smaller again. Thin solid culms which weep attractively when wet. The foliage is divided to give a fernlike appearance. Grows 3-4 m tall x 3m wide.

"Stripe stem fernleaf" - Compact ,upright & tidy. Great for small gardens & tub culture. This one has interesting striped fine foliage 7 the new culms are often pinkish in colour. Grows 3-4m tall x 1-2m wide.

"Willow" - Very prolific & fast growing. Attractive weeping habit. Grows 6m tall x 2-3 m or more wide , sometimes as much as 6 m wide in older specimens.

"Golden Goddess"- This is an interesting mutant form of Stripedstem Fernleaf. It is slightly taller , more vigorous & even broader. Culms yellow with age giving the plant a nice contrasting between the green foliage & golden yellow stems. Quite vigorous once established. Grows to 4-6 m tall x 4m wide.

Pleioblastus viridi-striata.

A small grower but vigorous. This one is a running variety & is therefore best when confined to tubs as it can be quite invasive . Cut it back to 2 inches tall in Winter to produce spectacular bright yellow green striped foliage in Spring.

Tiger Grass.

This is a bamboo relative that makes attractive large clumps of deep green stems & foliage. A useful screen or makes an interesting specimen in a lawn as a centre piece. Dense & bushy. Grows to 3-1m tall x 3-4 m wide.