

Tropical Clumping Bamboo

Pottery Express and Bamboo Farm
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Agricultural Bamboo Farm

- *8 acres
- *Landscaped with mature bamboo plants
- *Walking/Golf cart paths
- *established July 2004

We only sell Tropical Clumping Bamboo

- Clumping Bamboo
- Noninvasive
- Rhizomes produce buds that turn upward to form a new culm (cane) inches from the base of the plant
- Stays behaved in tight circular clumps spanning 3 to 15+ feet – you can control by removing culms
- Perfect sound and privacy barrier – some can even be manicured as a hedge
- Excellent cleanser of pollution removing carbon/creates oxygen from the atmosphere – “Green” natural resource
- Drought tolerant once established
- Some species are also salt tolerant for gulf and ocean front landscapes
- Ornamental for the many cane colors and sizes and leaf size and shapes



VS.

- Running Bamboo
- Aggressively invasive
- Rhizomes spread many feet before sending up a new culm
- Cold tolerant
- Many originated from the high elevations of Asia
- Require lots of water

Our Bamboo Inventory

Kingdom: Plantae
Angiosperms
Monocots
Commelinids
Order: Poales
Family: Poaceae
(Woody Grass)
Subfamily: Bamfusoideae
Supertribe: Bambusodae
Tribe: Bambuseae
Subtribe: Bambusinae

- Genus: Bambusa (13 species)
- Genus: Dendrocalamus (2 species)
- Genus: Gigantochloa (1 species)
- Genus: Thyrsostachys (1 species)
- Genus: Schizostachyum (1 species)

Most of the clumping bamboo species originated in the Asian part of the world. However, Southern Florida, shares the optimal environment for these plants to thrive.

Care of Tropical Clumping Bamboo

The following conditions must be met for the successful growth of your newly purchased bamboo: Sunlight, regular irrigation, good drainage and occasional fertilization.

Sunlight

Most tropical bamboos require direct sunlight on the leaves every day but beware of too much sun on the canes as they will sunburn. As with other plant species, some are happier in full sun and others prefer partial sun/shade.

Can I buy these varieties of bamboo here and plant them up North in my garden?

No. The tropical clumping bamboo varieties grown here do well year round in the South Florida sub-tropical climate. However, there are cold hardy clumpers from the genus Fargesia that we cannot grow here. Check with the internet or your local garden centers for these clumping bamboos.

Will the bamboo take over my yard? Do I need to put a barrier to control the roots from taking over?

No. We carry only the tropical clumping bamboo which does not send runners many feet from the plant. Temperate climates of the US commonly grow the running bamboo. Clumping varieties produce rhizomes only 2-4 inches apart and the plants grow into a circular clump. You can control the size of your clump by removing new culms that shoot up outside the area.

Care of Tropical Clumping Bamboo

Watering

To make sure your bamboo gets a healthy start after it is planted, diligent watering is a must. Your bamboo must have enough water on a daily basis for the first month after planting. Even if your irrigation system covers the bamboo on a daily basis you may still need extra watering to ensure proper health for your new plant. **If you notice the leaves starting to curl, it is a sign of inadequate water supply.** This is the main problem reported by bamboo growers. You are over watering if the soil stays muddy or retains water for long periods of time.

Drainage

The most important part of your bamboo plant is under ground. If the rhizome and root system are planted in muck or boggy conditions it will not survive. It may be necessary to build up a small berm and plant in that area to allow any excess water to drain into lower areas. Soils which are sandy and drain well are the best. An addition of top soil and manure into the planting hole will benefit the plant by providing a lower ph than the native soils of SW Florida.

Care of Tropical Clumping Bamboo

Fertilizing and Mulch

Bamboo should be fertilized with a palm fertilizer. The added micronutrients and iron are good for preventing yellowing of bamboo foliage. Here in southwest Florida, there are many sulfur/iron fertilizer mixes in both granular and liquid form that are known to work well and show favorable results. **Weed and feed fertilizers should never be used on bamboo.** Heavy mulch is helpful to place around the base of the plants.

Pruning

If you wish to thin your bamboo, you can remove some of the older growth after the second year. Make sure to take no more than 1/3 of the culms. To trim your bamboo, cut the culms near the base just above the node. You can use a small hand saw or reciprocating saw to trim your bamboo once yearly. It is not good to remove the newest culms unless they are growing into an unwanted area. It is also possible to remove some of the branches to reveal the canes and create a canopy in the bamboo. If you are planning on using bamboo for a hedge, windbreak or natural screen, the spacing is an important detail. Depending on the species and density of the plant, they should be planted anywhere from 4 to 6 feet of center.

Care of Tropical Clumping Bamboo

Instructions for planting your new bamboo

1. Dig a hole that is 3" larger than the size of the pot all the way around.
2. Remove the plant from the pot. If the bamboo does not slide out easily you may cut the pot off the roots of the plant.
3. If the roots have formed tightly into the shape of the pot you will need to loosen the roots.
4. Place the plant in the hole so the top of the plant is slightly below the level of the existing soil.
5. Backfill the hole with the existing soil mixed with a rich topsoil or a manure compost. It is important to make sure there are no pockets of air around the root ball. Create a ring barrier of dirt around the top to help it absorb water.
6. Follow the watering and mulching directions mentioned previously.

When is the best time to plant bamboo?

The summer rainy season is the most optimum time to plant the bamboo plants, when they are actively producing new growth. However, they can be planted anytime during the year. Winter is a dormant period for the bamboo, and no new shoots will emerge until the rains begin again.

Which species suits your needs better?

What are the best varieties for a hedge or along a fence line?

Golden Goddess, Seashore, and Graceful Slender Weaver are the best suited varieties as a hedge. The recommended spacing is 4 to 6 feet apart. New shoots can be cut at the ground to control growth into an undesirable location.

I need a short bamboo which only gets 15 feet tall.

We sell a couple dwarf varieties that reach 12-15 feet tall at maturity. (Golden Goddess and Dwarf Buddha Belly) Trimming is possible on the Golden Goddess and on the Seabreeze variety to keep it at a slightly shorter height.

Can I grow bamboo in a pot?

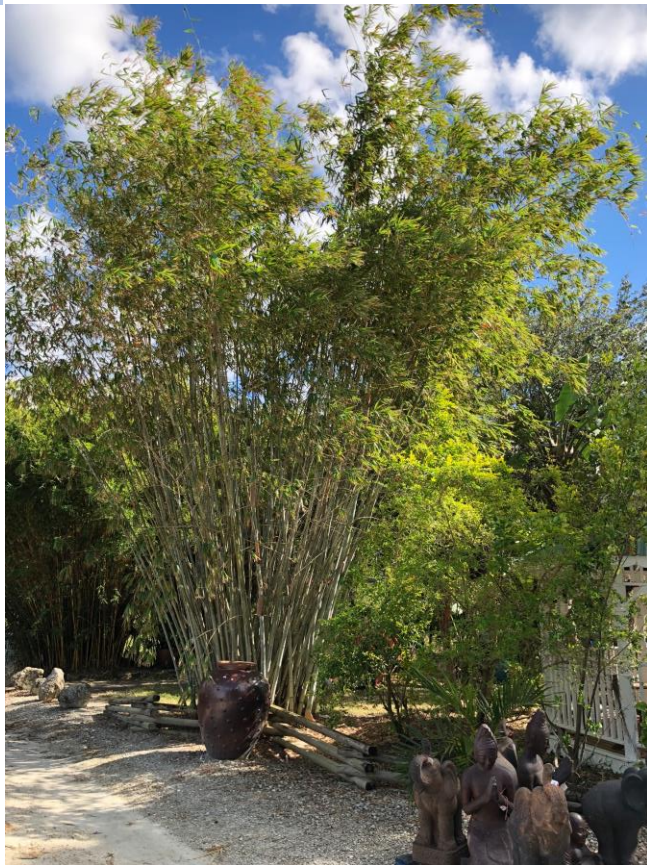
*Of course you can like we do in our plastic liners. However, it is **very labor intensive** to keep the bamboo under control by shaving, splitting, or repotting into a larger container. Watering requirements are much greater! Basically, it will only be about a year before it busts your pot. If you have purchased one of our beautiful pieces of garden pottery, this is not good news! We do have a couple of varieties that will work in a pot: Tawaiin variegated and Monestary.*



Note the busted liner!

Angel Mist or Ghost
Dendrocalamus minor amoenus

- 30 to 40 feet at maturity
- 2" whitish blue canes
- cold tolerance of 25 degrees
- From Southern China

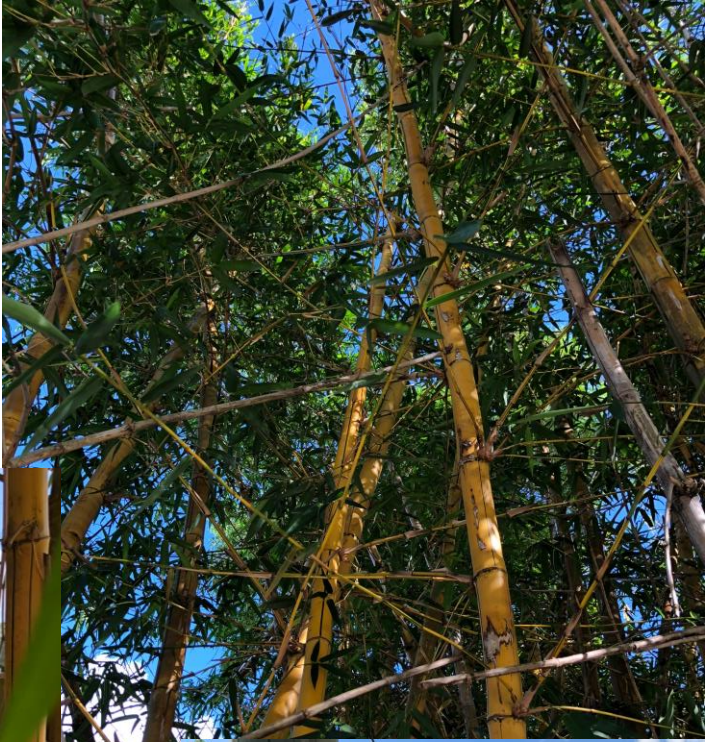


Note hairs on new cane may be irritating to some but texture adds interest



Golden Hawaiian
Bambusa vulgaris 'Vittata'

- 40 to 50 feet at maturity
- Gorgeous yellow canes with green stripes
- 4" culms
- Cold tolerance to 30 degrees
- Easily propagated



Dwarf Buddha Belly
Bambusa vulgaris 'Wamin'

- 15 to 20 feet tall
- 3" canes
- Each node bellies out to form a beautiful ornamental cane
- Cold tolerant to 35 degrees (cover a young plant if frost is predicted)
- By far, our most popular bamboo



Seabreeze or Seashore
Bambusa malingensis



- 30 to 40 feet at maturity
- 2" canes
- Salt tolerant
- Very fast growing and hardy
- Cold tolerance to 20 degrees
- Small leaves fill in space
- Can be manicured as a hedge
- Or plant closer together to form a natural hedge



Blowpipe

Bambusa dolichomerithalla 'Silverstripe'

- 25 to 45 feet tall
- 2" canes
- Green with white stripes
- Cold tolerant to 20 degrees
- Waves beautifully in the wind



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Problems

Mealy bugs – Pest control with active ingredient Imidacloprid

Scale - pesticide

Sunburn of canes – provide shade or remove canes

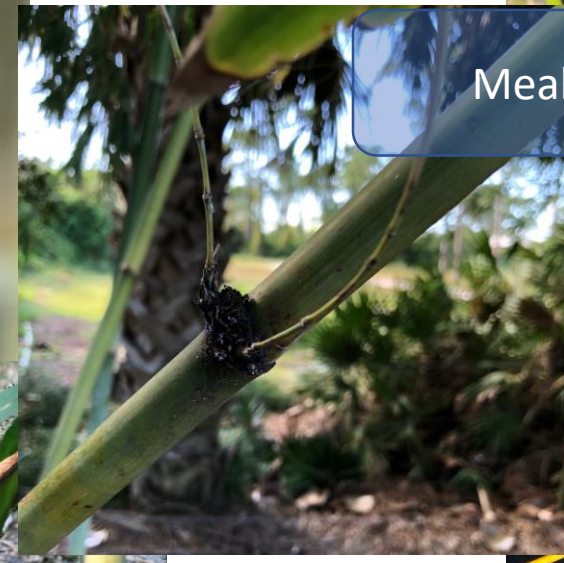
Black fungus on canes – Treat with copper spray or cut out the cane

Lack of water – curling leaves, dropping leaves

Standing water/Too much water – leaf tips brown out



Scale



Mealy bugs



Black fungus



Sunburn of canes



Pott

Remember this for your new bamboo addition...

First year it sleeps
Second year it creeps
Third year it leaps