

## Hardy bamboo?

Though bamboo is seen growing in some tropical countries, many varieties are in fact perfectly hardy. Prolonged exposure to sub-zero temperatures causes the soil to freeze progressively deeper, which may eventually prevent the rhizomes from obtaining moisture. This is why a thick mulch of organic matter is vital, especially around young vulnerable plants. During severe weather, the foliage may suffer, but as long as the underground buds remain undamaged, new shoots will appear the following spring. Protect plants growing in containers by raising the pot off the ground on purpose-made feet or bricks to allow excess rain water to drain away quickly. In addition, wrap the entire container with insulating bubble plastic to prevent the root ball from freezing.

## Planting and aftercare

Bamboo will tolerate almost any soil type, providing it does not remain waterlogged for long periods. Deeply dig each planting hole, incorporating generous amounts of well rotted manure, garden compost or Multi Purpose Compost with the surrounding soil. Remove the plant from its pot and place slightly below ground level (covering its existing root ball with approx. 2cm (3/4") of soil). Back fill the planting hole and firm gently. Water immediately to settle the soil and get the plant off to a good start. A further mulch of compost or bark will help retain moisture and enrich the soil. Keep plants well watered until they become fully established (about 18 months). Rolled foliage is often a sign of dry roots so water thoroughly. Bamboo in containers should be kept well watered at all times. A weekly liquid feed of Miracle-Gro during the summer will maintain healthy, dark green foliage.

Avoid digging around bamboo as the rhizomes, by which they spread, run close to the surface and are easily damaged. However, to prevent vigorous varieties from spreading beyond their allotted space, dig a trench 25-30cm (10-12) deep and sink a solid barrier into the hole. Alternatively, slice through unwanted shoots in autumn with a spade and remove.

# caring for...

# Bamboo

## Bamboo

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**Haskins West End**  
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**Haskins Snowhill**  
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*Sasa japonica*



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# Hardy Bamboo

## Bamboo

Thanks to its diversity of species and great adaptability, bamboo is suitable for almost any kind of garden. Its exotic appearance adds a tropical touch, while its fresh green foliage and coloured stems can brighten even the dullest corners - especially during winter.

Bamboo provides an excellent wind break; just like reeds, their stems will flex and bend, but not break. Their powerful rhizomes can hold together a sloping bank or riverside, while if contained in a pot their growth can be controlled.

Bamboo is the fastest growing species in the plant kingdom, with growth of more than one metre a day recorded for certain varieties. These are however mature, established specimens growing in relatively warm countries. Young plants must be given time to become fully established, before these heights are reached. Climatic variation and soil conditions may also affect rate of colonisation of some spreading varieties.

Bamboo species fall into four categories according to their mature height, when grown under ideal conditions.

**Dwarf** - never reaching more than 1.5m (5ft).

**Small** - growing between 1.5m-3m (10ft).

**Medium** - ranging from 3m-9m (30ft).

**Giant** - 9m high and over (30ft+).

Bamboo is a member of the grass family. Its relatives include wheat, corn and varieties of lawn grass. As a consequence, the main stems are called culms, which attain their maximum height within one growing season. The culms remain the same height the following year, but are overtaken by the new seasons growth, which is much taller.

## Planting distance

Type:	Specimen or Clump:	Hedging or Windbreak:
Dwarf Bamboo	40-60cm apart	30-50cm apart
Small Bamboo	80-100cm apart	60-80cm apart
Medium Bamboo	180-220cm apart	100-140cm apart
Giant Bamboo	3-4m apart	160-200cm apart

## Recommended varieties of bamboo (All are fully hardy) - Listed from smallest to largest.

Latin name:	Synonym / Other Name:	Height:	Position:	Use:	Growth Habit:
<i>Pleioblastus distichus</i>	<i>P. pygmaeus</i> var. <i>distichus</i> <i>Arundinaria argenteostriata</i> var. <i>distichus</i>	10-50cm	Any	Garden / Pot	Dwarf & compact
<i>Pleioblastus fortunei</i>	<i>Pleioblastus fortunei</i> Variegata <i>P. variegatus</i> <i>Arundinaria variegata</i>	30-100cm	Any	Garden / Pot	Variegated, dwarf
<i>Pleioblastus pumilus</i>	<i>Sasa pumila</i>	30-80cm	Any	Garden / Pot	Ex. Ground cover
<i>Pleioblastus viridistriatus</i>	<i>P. auricana</i> <i>Arundinaria aricana</i>	30-100cm	Semi-shade	Garden / Pot	Brightly variegated foliage
<i>Pleioblastus viridistriatus</i> 'Vagans'	<i>Arundinaria viridistriata</i> <i>A. vagans</i> <i>Sasa ramosa</i>	20-100cm	Any	Garden / Pot	Very Hardy
<i>Sasa masamuneana</i> 'Albostrata'	<i>Sasaella glabra albostrata</i>	50-150cm	Any	Garden / Pot	Attractive foliage
<i>Fargesia murielae</i>	<i>Arundinaria murielae</i> <i>Thamnocalamus murielae</i> Umbrella bambo	2-3m	Semi-shade	Garden / Pot	Hardy & graceful
<i>Fargesia nitida</i>	<i>Sinarundinaria nitida</i> <i>Arundinaria nitida</i> <i>Thamocalamus nitidus</i>	2-3m	Semi-shade	Garden / Pot	Ideal for shade
<i>Hibanobambusa tranquillans</i> 'Shiroshima'	-	2-3m	Any	Garden / Pot	Large variegated foliage
<i>Pleioblastus chino</i> 'Elegantissimus'	<i>P. chino</i> f. <i>angustifolius</i> <i>Arundinaria angustifolia</i>	1-3m	Any	Garden / Pot	Elegant, variegated foliage
<i>Sasa veitchii</i>	<i>Sasa albo-marginata</i>	1-1.5m	Any	Garden / Pot	Attractive winter foliage
<i>Bambusa multiplex</i>	<i>Bambusa glaucescens</i>	3-12m	Any	G / P / Houseplant / Windbreak	Dense foliage
<i>Bambusa multiplex</i> 'Alphonse Karr'	-	2-10m	Semi-shade	G / P / Houseplant / Windbreak	Yellow streaked culms
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden Bamboo	6-9m	Any	G / P / Edible	Dense foliage
<i>Phyllostachys aureosulcata</i>	-	6-9m	Any	G / Edible	Yellow striped culms
<i>Phyllostachys aureosulcata</i> 'Spectabilis'	-	5-8m	Any	Garden / Pot	Yellow, purple & green striped culms
<i>Phyllostachys aureosulcata</i> 'Aureocaulis'	-	5-8m	Any	Garden / Pot	Yellow/green culms
<i>Phyllostachys humilis</i>	-	3-5m	Any	G / P / Windbreak	Ideal for small gardens
<i>Phyllostachys nigra</i>	<i>P. puberula</i> var. <i>nigra</i> <i>Bambusa nigra</i> Ebony-Black Bamboo	6-8m	Any	Garden / Pot	Eye-catching stems
<i>Pseudosasa japonica</i>	<i>Arundinaria japonica</i> <i>Bambusa metake</i> Arrow Bamboo	5-6m	Any	G / P / H / Windbreak	Hanging dark foliage
<i>Phyllostachys nigra</i> Henonis	<i>P. puberta</i> <i>P. henonis</i>	16-18m	Any	G / P / W / Edible	Elegant & graceful
<i>Phyllostachys viridiglaucescens</i>	-	5-12m	Any	G / P / Windbreak	Very straight culms
<i>Phyllostachys viridis</i>	<i>P. mitis</i>	14-18m	Any	G / W / Edible	Good in clay soil

NB: Availability of some varieties may be limited, due to scarcity of supply. If unavailable from our normal suppliers, we shall refer customers to an alternative source.