



# Bamboo Identification

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## Plant Sales

A small number of a limited range of selected bamboos are now being grown for sale, to support plant identification activities. The proceeds will be used to fund travel and expenses to investigate newly introduced bamboos, to publish better names for them, and to cover [website](#) maintenance costs.

Many bamboos are sold with the wrong names these days, which makes it difficult to choose the correct species or to know how it will really perform. Bamboo plants are not cheap and can take quite a long time to establish, so it is imperative to have accurate names and thus appropriate information from the start.

These plants are all accurately identified with names that allow reference to their characteristics and potential in different sites. All plants are carefully monitored in the hope that they will be free of the pests that have started to appear lately on commercial stock. Traditional propagation techniques are used, with no tissue culture or growth regulating substances involved, so growth characteristics and hardiness will be predictable.

Buyers of these plants will have some excellent garden plants, but they will also know that they have contributed to the ongoing improvement of knowledge about our cultivated bamboos.

To purchase these bamboos and support research and the [website](#), please [email me](#) with your requirements and I will reply confirming availability, sizes and prices. Payment can be accepted by PayPal, by personal cheque in GB Pounds, or in cash. Plants can be collected from Amersham, Bucks, by prior arrangement, or sent by courier, but only to Europe for quarantine reasons.

Explore the [BI Bamboo Selection](#)



# Bamboo Identification

## BI Bamboo Selection

### Tried and Tested - The Classic Bamboos

- *Pseudosasa japonica* Japanese Arrow Bamboo
- *Phyllostachys nigra* Black Bamboo
- *Shibataea kumasaca* Fortune-inviting Bamboo

### The Next Generation - New selections of Classic Bamboos

- *Fargesia murielae* Umbrella Bamboo
- *Fargesia nitida* Fountain bamboo

### New Faces - Recent Introductions

- *Fargesia dracocephala* Dragon Head Bamboo
- *Borinda angustissima* Narrow-leaved Borinda
- *Sasa kurilensis* 'Shimofuri' Frosted Sasa
- *Sasa quelpaertensis* Dwarf Bordered Bamboo

### Seriously Rare - Collector's Bamboos

- *Drepanostachyum khasianum* 'Shillong' Khasia Bamboo
- *Himalayacalamus asper* Real Asper
- *Fargesia apicirubens* 'White Dragon'
- *Chimonobambusa tumidissinoda* Walking Stick Bamboo
- *Chimonobambusa szechuanensis* August Bamboo



# Bamboo Identification

## Tried and Tested - The Classic Bamboos

These bamboos are simply hard to beat. While many earlier bamboo introductions have been replaced by species that are superior in some way, these continue to justify their inclusion in any garden.

### *Pseudosasa japonica* Japanese Arrow Bamboo

[see full description at BI](#)

Moderately large glossy deep green leaves on short branches give this extremely tough upright bamboo an exotic ambience. Tested in harsh winters and strong coastal winds, this easy and flexible species forms a thicket 2-3m tall that spreads slowly, to make a useful windbreak in an exposed cliff-top garden, or a very refined specimen plant in a more urban setting such as a town courtyard.



- *Pseudosasa japonica* 2-3 litre £10 (€12)
- *Pseudosasa japonica* 5 litre £20 (€24)
- *Pseudosasa japonica* 12 litre £35 (€40)

### *Phyllostachys nigra* Black Bamboo

Famous for its stunning black culms that develop their colour from initially green shoots over the course of the first and second years. The most classic and distinguished of the early introductions, *P. nigra* is one of the few *Phyllostachys* species that is well-behaved and not likely to spread aggressively in N Europe. In most of the British Isles the 1-2cm diameter culms stay in a tight clump and only reach about 4-5m in height, but they need some warmth from the sun if they are not to sulk. Moving south into warmer areas, especially where water is also abundant, the clumps open up progressively to give well-spaced culms from spreading rhizomes. In the South of France for example, culms reach 10cm in diameter and 8-10m in height.



- *Phyllostachys nigra* 5 litre £25 (€30)
- *Phyllostachys nigra* 12 litre £50 (€60)
- *Phyllostachys nigra* 20 litre £100 (€120)



# Bamboo Identification

## *Shibataea kumasaca* Fortune-inviting Bamboo

[see full description at BI](#)



The original and genuine Lucky Bamboo, called 'Okame-zasa' in Japan, planted to bring financial prosperity, not to be confused with *Dracaena sanderiana*, an imposter grown under the name 'Lucky Bamboo' but not even really bamboo at all. The nearly oval, small, single leaves in dense whorls on short culms to 1m give this bamboo a very different appearance to other Asian bamboos, and this species is often used in Japanese topiary, trimmed into neat balls in classic Japanese gardens. In shaded locations it stays in a tight clump, but it spreads more in full sun.

- *Shibataea kumasaca* 3 litre £20 (€24)

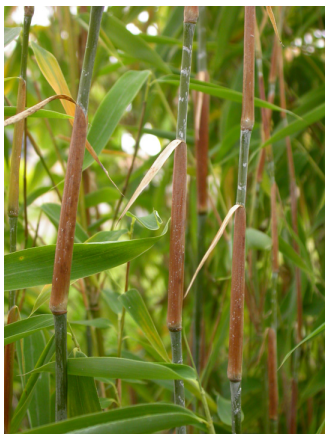
## The Next Generation - New selections of classic bamboos

The flowering and death of 2 very popular bamboo species temporarily removed them from the supply chain, but the variation in the population of seedlings subsequently raised has allowed many new cultivars to be made available.

## *Fargesia murielae* Umbrella Bamboo

[see full description at BI](#)

Introduced by the famous plant collector Ernest (Chinese) Wilson in 1907, this elegant species, the hardiest of all clump-forming bamboos, forms tight clumps of 1-3m that arch outwards in the shape of an umbrella. Widely planted until it started to flower in the 1980s, the seedlings proved highly variable, and most were weak and rather scruffy. A select few were notable for their vigour, their culm wax, or for having redder leaf sheaths and branches than their elegant mother, the Queen of cultivated bamboos. I have selected and multiplied two distinctive clones.



'Opal Prince' is extremely vigorous and fast growing, to 4m in height, with fresh green leaf sheaths, light brown sheaths and dense patches of culm wax, giving an overall mixture of glaucous colours like those in a green opal.

Because of its great vigour it suits a moist site in light shade.

- *Fargesia murielae* 'Opal Prince' 2 litre £25 (€30)





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'Red Pagoda' is a more erect and compact cultivar of *F. murielae*, with leaf sheaths that turn a red-purple colour, darker culm sheaths and culms that may develop a blue-purple colour after sun and cold.

It is more tolerant of sun and drier sites, and is only likely to reach 2.5-3m.

- *Fargesia murielae* 'Red Pagoda'      2 litre      £25 (€30)

Selected clones of *Fargesia nitida* are also being grown, and are expected to be available from 2016.

## New Faces - Recent Introductions

More recent additions to the pantheon of cultivated bamboos in western horticulture, these feature a range of superb characteristics not found in the earlier introductions. They are already making important contributions in many gardens, and give a glimpse of the range of plants that are still to be discovered in the wild.

### *Fargesia dracocephala* Dragon Head Bamboo

[see full description at BI](#)



A vigorous species, often producing 2 crops of shoots per year, which rapidly produces a somewhat open clump 2-3m tall, excellent for low screening. The nodding shoot tips and the leaf sheath auricles both recall a dragon's head, hence its name, *Fargesia dracocephala*. The bright orange sheaths of this species are a prominent feature, hence the widespread use of the name Rufa. A resilient bamboo that is quick and easy to establish and withstands summer heat and winter cold very well.

- *Fargesia dracocephala*      5 litre      £20 (€25)
- *Fargesia dracocephala*      12 litre      £40 (€50)

### *Borinda angustissima* Narrow-leaved Borinda

[see full description at BI](#)

Introduced in 1989 from a famous Giant Panda reserve in Sichuan, this 4-5m tall *Borinda* forms extremely tight clumps of narrow yellow culms, arching out under the weight of a mass of narrow bright green leaves. Refined and elegant with an ethereal appearance, this is a delightful specimen



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plant with great character, as the light branches sway and the leaves shimmer in the slightest breeze. One of the hardiest of the evergreen Borindas.

- *Borinda angustissima* 3 litre £20 (€25)
- *Borinda angustissima* 12 litre £60 (€75)

## *Sasa kurilensis* 'Shimofuri' Frosted Sasa

[see full description at BI](#)

A Japanese cultivar of this most northerly of bamboo species from the Kuril and Sakhalin Islands. Unique among the bamboos in the fine lines and hyphens of leaf variegation, which give the large broad leaves a special frosted appearance. A vigorous running bamboo with culms reaching 2.5m in England, this is best planted in a very large pot or tub, or within a rhizome barrier, or maybe on an island in a pond. The new shoots are a stunning yellow, and the culms and leaves form a dome in a large container, or a dense thicket if in the ground. It will spread to fill a large area if planted in the ground, so a rhizome barrier is recommended to stop it expanding too far in any but the largest of gardens.



- *Sasa kurilensis* 'Shimofuri' 12 litre £40 (€50)

## *Sasa quelpaertensis* Dwarf Bordered Bamboo

[see full description at BI](#)



*Sasa veitchii* was introduced from Japan in the 19th Century and widely planted as a winter foil for dark tree trunks or shrubs, but can get a little too tall, reaching up to 5 ft (1.5m). *S. quelpaertensis* is essentially a small form of *S. veitchii*, keeping the good characteristics of bright winter foliage, with slightly better hardiness, while staying much more under control without frequent pruning. Leaves are smaller and a little narrower. As ground cover under trees and in courtyard corners this is an ideal plant, but will expand slowly if not enclosed by paths or walls, although it is easy to lift and remove any wandering sections.

- *Sasa quelpaertensis* 2 litre £20 (€25)



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## Seriously Rare - Collectors Bamboos

These are very new bamboos that are hard to find elsewhere, available in limited numbers, and likely to sell out quickly.

### *Drepanostachyum khasianum* 'Shillong' **Khasia Bamboo**      [see full description at BI](#)



The best *Drepanostachyum* species for Southern Europe and conservatories or very bright rooms further north. Culms 2-4m tall, initially with blue wax and later with purple-tinged nodes, bearing rings of large numbers of small branches around the culm nodes and luxuriant rich green leaves. Thought to have died out in cultivation, but recently rediscovered and seedlings raised from the flowering are now available.

Very rare.

- *Drepanostachyum khasianum* 'Shillong'      2 litre      £25 (€30)

### *Himalayacalamus asper*      **The Real Asper**      [see full description at BI](#)



A bamboo grown as *H. asper* in the past was reclassified with a new species name, *H. planatus*. This species, with softer, glaucous, broader leaves, from below the Annapurna mountain range in Nepal, is the real *asper*. It is not quite as frost hardy as *H. planatus*, but it is hardier than *H. hookerianus* and *H. porcatius*, and will (just) survive outside in central southern England for example. Known in France as *Drepanostachyum merretii*.

Very rare indeed.

- *Himalayacalamus asper*      3 litre      £40 (€50)





# Bamboo Identification

*Fargesia apicirubens* 'White Dragon'

see full description at BI



A shade loving beauty. *Fargesia apicirubens* is normally rather dull with heavy dense foliage, but this seedling cultivar opens out its branches in a dark shady spot and presents a dazzling display of bright cream variegation. It must be planted in the shade though, or else the variegated leaves become greener or drop off after sun scorch.

Still rare.

*Fargesia apicirubens* 'White Dragon' 3 litre £30 (€36)

*Fargesia apicirubens* 'White Dragon' 12 litre £60 (€75)

*Chimonobambusa tumidissinoda* Walking Stick Bamboo see full description at BI



A unique species with remarkable swollen disc-like nodes, known from classical Chinese paintings and from walking sticks but only recently introduced to the west. This narrow-leaved species with 2-3m tall pendulous culms is the definition of exquisite bamboo beauty, but it is an escape artist like no other bamboo, with rhizomes that arch over rhizome barriers and spread far and wide if not watched carefully so it makes a good specimen for a large tub in the shade. Culms should be reduced in height to make them more erect and to reveal the beautiful nodes.

- *Chimonobambusa tumidissinoda* 5 litre £30 (€36)





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## *Chimonobambusa szechuanensis* August Bamboo

see full description at BI



Spreading 2-3m tall bamboo with round culms and no thorns, remarkable for the reddish purple colours of culms, branches, and young leaf sheaths where exposed to the light.

Foliage leaves are broad and shiny, appearing very healthy and lush even in mid winter. New shoots appear in late summer or autumn, rather than spring or early summer, hence the name.

Very rare.

- *Chimonobambusa szechuanensis* 2 litre Sold Out
- *Chimonobambusa szechuanensis* 12 litre £40 (€50)