

Phyllostachys Bamboo Care Details

- Phyllostachys bamboos are perfect for use as specimens, hedging, windbreaks or in containers depending upon the exact variety.
- This family of bamboos come in a wide range of coloured culms (canes) including green, black, golden, yellow, yellow with green stripes etc.
- Most Phyllostachys will establish themselves very quickly and produces new culms from spring until late summer and *P. bisetii* usually has a second flush in autumn. The main exception is *P. nigra* which is one of the slower growing Phyllostachys bamboos. Having said that it will still grow taller and wider, faster than most other plants!
- The most important thing to remember when growing bamboo is to keep them very well watered after planting, especially for the first 2 years whilst the roots establish. If you don't, the leaves will curl and if still not watered will drop and not recover. Bucketfuls of water or even using the hose will ensure that they remain happy and grow to their maximum potential.
- When growing in pots it is even more important that they are kept well watered as they can dry out extremely especially on a hot summer day. We soak ours daily in pots for most of spring and summer.
- Most Phyllostachys bamboos can grow tall, even up to 5-6 metres and also quite wide. They are however very easy to keep smaller if desired so that they can be grown in even quite small gardens. If you cut a cane, it will never re-grow in height but will instead grow new leaves near to the tip. By pruning this way you can even keep an almost formal hedge if you wish.
- They will grow well in full sun or part-shade and can be planted at anytime of year as long as the ground is not hard with frost! If they are to be grown in the ground, you will need to dig a hole slightly larger than the root ball and water in very well. The new culms (canes) can often be a different colour to their eventual colour. *P. nigra* for example produces green canes that mature after a growing season or 2 to ebony black.
- Using a slow or controlled release fertilizer when planting will ensure that your plant is correctly fed and will grow at an optimum rate remembering to re-pot as necessary. John Innes or general multi- purpose compost will usually have sufficient food for the first 4-6 weeks, if no food is added. When growing in pots this is essential as nutrients deficiency will lead to weak plants and yellow leaves. Slow release fertilizer should be added annually in pots and they should ideally be re-potted every 1-2 years max.
- In their first year after planting you will see the slowest growth rate (although they can still produce many new culms depending upon the time of year). Year 2-3 onwards will show rapid annual growth with the plants thickening

up and increasing year on year in height.

■ Please have a look at www.easytropicals.com for companion ideas & a general hardiness guide. If you have any questions please email for a prompt reply.

Many thanks for looking.