This is the twenty-first year that the American Bamboo Society (ABS) has compiled a Source List of bamboo plants and products. The List includes 383 kinds (species, subspecies, varieties, forms, cultivars, and clones) of bamboo available from 76 sources, plus many bamboo-related products, available from 37 additional sources. ABS produces the List as a public service; it is sent to all ABS members, and to anyone else who requests it who sends $1 for postage costs. It is also available for sale by some ABS chapters and listed vendors. Information about bamboo uses, and about the American Bamboo Society and its chapters, and where to write for copies of this list, is on page 35.

The List was compiled from information gathered directly from the sellers in February, 2001. The List is published yearly. While we have tried to record all information accurately, it is inevitable that some errors have occurred or that some things will change during the months ahead.

We cannot guarantee the reliability of the sources, but if you feel that a supplier has been particularly poor, let me know. If complaints are justified, those sources will not appear on next year’s list.

The Source List follows in the footsteps of F. A. McClure, who in his 1966 book The Bamboos, A Fresh Perspective, listed at the end all bamboos commercially available in the United States, with the names of some suppliers. Richard Haubrich, founder of the American Bamboo Society, continued this, from 1981 through 1996. The number of vendors has expanded greatly in recent years, reflecting the increasing popularity of bamboo.

The Species Table

The Species Table lists the species in alphabetical order of their Latin names. The “max height” and “max diam” columns give approximate maximum sizes of the largest culms of mature plants grown under favorable conditions. The “min temp” column gives an estimate of the temperature at which some damage occurs due to cold. Many species will tolerate the minimum temperature for short periods of time and experience only leaf damage. At colder temperatures, or when the cold continues for some days, the leaves will fall, the culms may be killed, or the plant may be killed outright. These temperatures are not precise, and we need to hear of actual experience with cultivated plants. Unfortunately, due to lack of reports, the numbers are a mix of temperatures at which some damage occurs and of temperatures that result in total destruction.

The “shade sun” number is an estimate of the optimum sunlight conditions for the species. A “1” indicates full shade and a “5” indicates full sun with “2” to “4” being gradations of partial shade. The general rule is that large bamboos grow best in the sun, while small ones like at least some shade. There has been considerable discussion about whether we should give a range of numbers for each bamboo, or specify a number for each latitude (or list foot-candles of light) since a plant that needs “full sun” in Massachusetts is fried in “full sun” in Arizona. In the end, we left it as it was, and suggest that this subject is suitable for a research project, or at least a Journal article.

The last two columns list the sources for each species by the code letters under which the suppliers are listed in the Source Table. In the Species Table, the left column lists vendors who say the variety is usually available; the right column indicates vendors who have the species available only occasionally or in limited supply. In some cases, it indicates a retailer who can obtain the plant in a short time by special order from a wholesale grower. At the other extreme, it may indicate that a grower has one plant, and intends to divide it.

The Source Table

The suppliers are listed under the headings:

- Plant and Product Sources USA
- Products and Services USA and
- Products and Services Foreign

In order to provide a link from the Species Table to the Source Table, each supplier is given a letter or number. The alternative, without using an interactive database, would have been to assign codes to all of the plants and products, and all of the suppliers, and form a matrix. Since this report comes out both as a printed publication and on a Web page, that alternative did not seem practical.

The code letters run through the alphabet first in UPPER CASE ROMAN, then lower case, then UPPER CASE ITALICS, and then start through numbers in the product listings.

Many of the suppliers, both wholesale and retail, say “visits by appointment only.” This is because they are either part-time bamboo growers, or small operations without a “store” or sales staff, and if you show up without an appointment you may find nobody there — or discover that the address is a mail drop. Write or phone to make an appointment.

There are many suppliers who will send you plants by mail or freight. If your local retail nursery doesn’t carry the bamboo you want, and you don’t want to try mail order, ask the retail nursery if they can “special order” it from a nearby wholesale grower. We wish more growers who are "wholesale only" were on the list, or would at least give us their names so that we can refer retailers and landscapers to them, but many choose not to be on the list because they can’t handle phone calls from the public. So: don’t phone a "wholesale only" supplier unless you are a retailer or landscaper.

This publication will also be posted on the ABS Web page, at http://www.bamboo.org/abs/ where you can go directly from the supplier listing to that supplier’s web page if they have one. Some of the “Products” suppliers in foreign countries also carry plants, but cannot legally ship them to addresses in the United States.
Species Names

Species names and generic names of bamboos have been changed frequently as taxonomists get better information for identification. We have tried to use the currently accepted name for each species, but in some cases there is no general agreement on a proposed name change, and both the “old” and the “new” name may be equally accepted. We have used the following authorities, who do not always agree:

Manual of Grasses (Royal Horticultural Society)
PROSEA 7: Bamboos (Dransfield and Widjaja)
Index to Japanese Bambusaceae (Suzuki)
Illustrated Horticultural Bamboo Species of Japan (Okamura, Tanaka, Konishi, and Kashiwagi)
Genera Graminum (Clayton & Renvoize)
Compendium of Chinese Bamboos (Zhu, Ma, and Fu)
Bamboos of Nepal and Bamboos of Bhutan (Stapleton)
Bamboos of the World (Ohrnberger)
Bamboos of India (Seethalakshmi and Kumar)
American Bamboos (Judziewicz, Clark, Londono, and Stern)
Bamboo and Rattan Genetic Resources in Certain Asian Countries (Vivekanandan, Rao, and Rao).

Notes on Some Species of Phyllostachys (Chao & Renvoize)

Synonyms

The following are synonyms that have come to our attention; the “old” name is not necessarily “wrong.” However, the name in the right column is the one we have used in the Species List.

Old name = Name Used Here
Arundinaria alpina = Yushania alpina
Arundinaria amabilis = Pseudosasa amabilis
Arundinaria auricoma = Pleioblastus viridistriatus
Arundinaria hookeriana = Himalayacalamus hookerianus
Arundinaria macroperma = Arundinaria gigantea
Arundinaria maling = Yushania maling
Arundinaria tessellata = Thamnocalamus tessellatus
Arundinaria vagans = Sasaella ramosa
Bambusa arundinacea = Bambusa bambos
Bambusa glaucescens = Bambusa multiplex
Bambusa vulgaris ‘Striata’ = Bambusa vulgaris ‘Vittata’
Chusquea breviglumis = Chusquea aff. culeou
Chimonobambusa falcata = Drepanostachyum falcatum
Chimonobambusa tumidinoda = Qionghuea tumidissinoda
Dendrocalamus membranaceus = Bambusa membranacea
Fargesia angustissima = Borinda angustissima
Fargesia fungosa = Borinda fungosa
Fargesia frigida = Borinda frigida
Fargesia murielae = Fargesia murielae
Gigantochloa sp. ‘Timor Black’ = Bambusa lako
Oatea aztecorum = Oatea acuminata aztecorum
Phyllostachys congesta = Phyllostachys atrovaginata
Phyllostachys cerata = Phyllostachys heteroclada
Phyllostachys decora = Phyllostachys mannii
Phyllostachys edulis = Phyllostachys heteroclada
Phyllostachys purpurata = Phyllostachys heteroclada

Moso

We note that “Moso,” the most commonly used bamboo in the world, has been listed variously as Ph. edulis (in Europe), Ph. pubescens (in China), and Phyllostachys heterocycla f. pubescens in the United States. We had considered making a change to edulis, but first asked for advice from Steve Renvoize, the Phyllostachys expert at Kew Gardens. Here is his response:

Dear George

The problem of Moso, Phyllostachys pubescens/Ph. edulis/P. heterocycla is a vexatious one. Ohrnberger uses P. edulis, which I myself used in the past, but the Chinese are currently using P. heterocycla cv Pubescens. The problem lies with the identity of Bambusa edulis Carriere, which is the basis of the name, the absence of an authentic specimen or illustration means that reliance has to be placed on the rather inadequate description. Thus opinions differ on whether Carriere’s description is correctly interpreted as a Phyllostachys.

I suggest that you use P. heterocycla cv Pubescens, in line with the Chinese, and put in brackets P. edulis and P. pubescens to indicate synonymy (note that the Chinese use ‘cv’, whereas Ohrnberger uses ‘forma’ for the subdivisions).

For the tortoise shell bamboo I suggest that you use P. heterocycla with in brackets P. edulis cv Heterocycla and P. pubescens cv Heterocycla.

This may not be the ultimately accepted name but at least it will make clear the alternatives in use.

As far as P. mannii is concerned, the reduction of P. decora to synonymy is again supported by the latest Chinese account. I hope you find this helpful.

Regards

Steve Renvoize

We have compromised on the P. decora/P. mannii synonymy, since it is claimed that they look quite different, by listing P. decora as a "variety" of P. mannii.
Mountain Bamboos

There has been considerable confusion about the names of what we call “Mountain Bamboos,” plants that originate in the Himalayas and the mountains of southern China, including ones sold in the United States as Drepanostachyum falcatum and Himalayacalamus (or Arundinaria) hookerianus. Fortunately, Chris Stapleton of Kew Gardens, who spent years studying the Himalayan bamboos in Nepal, Bhutan, and Yunnan province of China, paid a visit and sorted out the names, as follows:

The “Himalayan Blue” bamboo that has been commonly sold in the US as Drepanostachyum falcatum, is actually Himalayacalamus hookerianus. The true Drepanostachyum falcatum is actually available in Europe, but apparently has never been introduced into the United States.

The plant that has been sold as Drepanostachyum hookerianus is probably Himalayacalamus falconeri, variety “Damarapa.”

The plant called Drepanostachyum falconeri in the United States is not what it is called, and is apparently a new species, which Chris has named Drepanostachyum sengteeanum.

Further confusion: The plants sold as Neomicrocalamus microphyllus are most probably Himalayacalamus asper.

With all of this confusion, he was surprised to note that the plants that we call Drepanostachyum khasianum are actually that, since it has been misidentified frequently in Europe.

Finally, he checked the one that we call 'Himalayacalamus intermedius', which was brought into the US from Fuji Garden by Gerald Bol but never properly named in a scientific paper. It is a new and different bamboo, and J.-P. DeMoly has proposed to name it Yushania Boliana but there is question whether that genus is correct. We will wait to see if that name is accepted by the taxonomists, and in the mean time continue to call it ‘H. intermedius’ (as a Horticultural name) until it has been properly named.

Finally, there is the genus Borinda, which was established by Stapleton in 1994 on the basis of the flowers and rhizomes, and includes at least 30 species previously listed in Fargesia. It has now been recognized in several publications, and we have shifted Fargesia fungosa, Fargesia frigida, and Fargesia angustissima to Borinda. There will probably be more shifts.

We have tried to cross-reference all of these in the lists, but some suppliers have the plants labeled with the old names and some with the new.

Horticultural Names

Horticultural names include both cultivar names and Latinized names of “no botanical standing.” Cultivar names are included here, capitalized, with ‘single quotes,’ or sometimes inconsistently with the abbreviation cv. Some Latinized names that are in general use but not currently accepted by taxonomists are also included, followed by the note (Hort.)

Variatel, cultivar, or clone names assigned by individual growers are not listed until they have been widely accepted, and descriptions have been provided to us to distinguish them from the basic species and other named varieties.

We have engaged in some discussion about the inconsistencies in naming bamboos here. We have not strictly followed the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, nor the similar (but different) Code on Cultivated Plants. This has to do with forms, cultivars, subspecies, and “varieties” in the two different meanings used by taxonomists and horticulturists. It would take some considerable research into the history of bamboo taxonomy and horticulture to sort these all out.

When and if somebody settles down to map the DNA in all these bamboos, we may get the names sorted out for good.

Some Common Names

Garden books, gardeners, and landscapers frequently refer to bamboos by “common names.” The following are some of the common names in use in the United States, to help you find scientific names of the plants you seek.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrow Bamboo</td>
<td>Pseudosasa japonica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beechey Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa beecheyana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Bamboo</td>
<td>Phyllostachys nigra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddha’s Belly</td>
<td>Bambusa ventricosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canebreak</td>
<td>Arundinaria gigantea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Goddess</td>
<td>Bambusa multiplex riviereorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Thorny Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa sinospinosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa vulgaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf Fernleaf Bamboo</td>
<td>Pleioblastus distichus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf Whitestripe Bamboo</td>
<td>Pleioblastus fortunei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernleaf Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa multiplex ‘Fernleaf’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain Bamboo</td>
<td>Fargesia nitida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Thorny Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa bambos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Timber Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa oldhamii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Mountain Bamboo</td>
<td>Yushania alpina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Bamboo</td>
<td>Phyllostachys aurea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Golden Bamboo</td>
<td>Phyllostachys aurea holochrysa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavenly Bamboo</td>
<td>is a Nandina, not a bamboo at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedge Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa multiplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himalayan Blue Bamboo</td>
<td>Drepanostachyum falcatum (old name) or (new name) = Himalayacalamus hookerianus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsehoof Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa lapidea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Range Bamboo</td>
<td>Bambusa forbesii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Timber Bamboo</td>
<td>Phyllostachys bambusoides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucky Bamboo</td>
<td>is also not a bamboo; it is a Dracaena.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Bamboo</td>
<td>= Dendrocalamus strictus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marbled Bamboo</td>
<td>= Chimonobambusa marmorea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Weeping Bamboo</td>
<td>= Otacea acuminata aztecorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monastery Bamboo</td>
<td>= Thyrsostachys siamensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narihira Bamboo</td>
<td>= Semiarundinaria fastuosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldham's Bamboo</td>
<td>= Bambusa oldhamii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted Bamboo</td>
<td>= Bambusa vulgaris ‘Vittata’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punting Pole Bamboo</td>
<td>= Bambusa tulioideís</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Cane</td>
<td>= Arundinaria gigantea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square Bamboo</td>
<td>= Chimonobambusa quadranularis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Bamboo</td>
<td>= Phyllostachys angusta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetshoot Bamboo</td>
<td>= Phyllostachys dulcis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch Cane</td>
<td>= Arundinaria gigantea tecta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor Black Bamboo</td>
<td>= Bambusa lako</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonkin Cane</td>
<td>= Pseudosasa amabilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortoise Shell Bamboo</td>
<td>= Phyllostachys heterocycla</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tea Stick Bamboo = Pseudosasa amabilis
Tropical Black Bamboo = Gigantochloa atroviolacea
Umbrella Bamboo = Fargesia murieliae
Water Bamboo = Phyllostachys heteroclada
Weaver's Bamboo = Bambusa textilis
Wine Bamboo = Oxytenanthera braunii
Yellow Groove Bamboo = Phyllostachys aureosulcata

Japanese names frequently used:
Hachiku = Phyllostachys nigra ‘Henon’
Hoteichiku = Phyllostachys aurea
Kikkochiku = Phyllostachys heterocycla
Kumazasa = Sasa veitchii
Kurochiku = Phyllostachys nigra
Madake = Phyllostachys bambusoides
Medake = Pleioblastus simonii
Moso (Mao zhu) = Phyllostachys heterocycla pubescens
Okame-zasa = Shibataea kumasaca
Yadake = Pseudosasa japonica

Credits for assistance
We thank the following who have assisted with the names and descriptions for the Species Table in this and past editions: Steve Renvoize, Chris Stapleton, Lynn Clark, Susan Ruskin, Adam Turtle, Gib Cooper, Richard Haubrich, Ximena Londoño, Durnford Dart, Soejatmi Dransfield, Kim Higbie, and Peter Bindon. Chris particularly gave much help this year. None of the above have seen this year’s final draft, however, so errors and arbitrary decisions are all the responsibility of the editor.

The Use Code
A few years ago we presented a first draft of a “use code”, listing the purposes for which individual bamboos are used, prepared by Richard Waters. This year Kyle Young has proposed to carry on and expand the coding. His information starts on page 32.
We have also changed the format of the Use Code (at least temporarily). Instead of including a coding with each variety listed, we have instead listed the codes, and with each the varieties that fit under each code. Many bamboos are included in his list that are not in our Source List.

We hope that you will find this publication useful.
George Shor
Source List Editor