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USING HARDY BAMBOOS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Using Hardy Bamboos

Bamboo is easily overlooked as a landscape plant in Ohio. However, it's use can bring a touch of the exotic into the garden and it's interesting, luminescent foliage can make a beautiful backdrop to a landscape or an effective scene to an unwanted vista or neighbor.

Bamboos like moderate growing conditions. They are very easy to grow in a soil with plenty of organic matter added. Severe winters can hurt bamboo, and some varieties need a sheltered location to thrive. Also, because they are generally available only from distant growers, expect to pay more for a container of bamboo than your average shrub.

Bamboo growth is slow the first year, but picks up steam each year. You will notice the culms (stems) emerge larger in diameter each year and grow faster. Foliage is evergreen, and stems are usually green also.

Choose between Clumping or Running varieties. Generally, clumping varieties grow slower, not as tall, and tolerate more shade. Also, they do not spread. Running bamboo, is a more vigorous, taller form. They can spread with alarming speed if not contained with sturdy barriers. They can also reach twenty feet or more in height. There are many online resources and books to get informed about bamboo.

Here are several varieties of bamboo to consider:

Clumping: *Fargesia rufa*, *Fargesia denuda*.

Running: Yellow Groove Bamboo, David Bissett Bamboo, Black Bamboo, Dwarf Yellow-Stripe Bamboo.

There are other varieties that are hardy in our area, but more difficult to find.