Clumping Bamboo

Richard Lindberg
Definition of *BAMBOO*

: any of various woody or arborescent grasses (as of the genera *Bambusa*, and *Dendrocalamus* of the subfamily Bambusoideae) of tropical and temperate regions having hollow stems, thick rhizomes, and shoots that are used for food; *also* : the jointed stem of bamboo used especially for building, [furniture](#), and utensils
There are two general patterns for the growth of bamboo: "clumping" (sympodial) and "running" (monopodial). Clumping bamboo species tend to spread slowly, as the growth pattern of the rhizomes is to simply expand the root mass gradually, similar to ornamental grasses.
Running" bamboos need to be taken care of in cultivation because of their potential for aggressive behavior.

They spread mainly through their roots and/or rhizomes, which can grow widely underground and send up new culms to break through the surface.

Running bamboo species are highly variable in their tendency to spread;
Bamboo comes in all shapes and sizes.

They range in size from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 1 foot in diameter. Height can be from inches to over 120 feet.

Culms can be green, yellow, orange, black, blue/white, brown, stripped or even fuzzy.

Leaves can be skinny, fat, variegated in white or yellow and up to 20 inches long.
Bamboo has an extraordinary range of uses. Here's just a few:
baskets, bicycle frames, bird cages, blinds, boats, bridges, brushes, buckets, canoes, carts, charcoal, chopsticks, clothing, cooking utensils, diapers, fans, fences, firewood, fishing rods, food steamer, furniture, garden tools, handicrafts, hats, incense, musical instruments, paper, particle board, pens, pipes, ply, roofing, scaffold, tableware, toilets, toothpicks, toys, umbrellas, walking sticks
Bamboo - you can wear it, you can eat it, you can build with it. Bamboo may increasingly replace plastics and wood products - what a marvelous gift from nature!
Bamboo is a green resource

Consider bamboo alternatives when purchasing items - despite some ongoing debate about the exploitation of bamboo and associated production processes of bamboo goods, it's readily renewable, sustainable and still seems to have a lot less environmental impact than chemical-ridden crops, destruction of old growth forests and petroleum-derived materials.
Landscaping
There are hundreds of nurseries around the world specializing in bamboo.

Most people want bamboo to use as a screen. This may be for privacy, to block a view, to cut down on noise or simply to provide dramatic beauty in the landscape.

Small, dwarf bamboos are used as groundcovers, slightly larger bamboos make beautiful hedges, and the larger species make beautiful specimen plants in the garden.

There's nothing quite like a grove of giant bamboo with towering culms.
Walking through a grove of your own bamboo is an experience to cherish........
What kind of bamboo can I grow?
Clumping bamboo

Depending on your climate there are many species you can grow.

Min. temp 18 degrees f – 22 species

Min. temp 21 degrees f – 37 species

Min. temp 25 degrees F – 64 species in two genera

Information from the ABS source list
What happens when it gets too cold?

Is my bamboo dead when it drops all its leaves?

What happens when it gets really cold?

How do I protect my bamboo from the cold?
Ok I want to grow bamboo what species should I get?
Bambusa multiplex 'Tiny Fern'

3 feet ¼ inch 18 degrees f. A dwarf form with leaves often less than 1" long, but can grow larger.
Bambusa multiplex 'Alphonse Karr'

25 feet 1 ½ inches 18 degrees f. Similar to the species, but the culms and branches are bright yellow with irregular longitudinal narrow dark green stripes. New shoots and culms are often reddish.
Bambusa textilis var. gracilis

30 feet 1¼ 18 degrees f. Culm more slender than the typical B. textilis, nodding top, graceful foliage.
Bambusa chungii

33 feet 2 ½ inches 21 degrees f. Culms covered with white powder. Thin walled. Used in papermaking, weaving.
Bambusa oldhamii

55 feet 4 inches plus 21 degrees f. The most common giant tropical bamboo grown in the U.S. Culms straight and erect with relatively short branches. Leaves are rather wide.
Collector bamboo
Bambusa emeiensis 'Viridiflavus'

35 feet 2 ½  24 degrees f  Culms erect with yellow stripes alternating 180° on each internode.
Bambusa emeiensis 'Flavidovirens'

35 feet tall 2 ½  24 degrees f  Green stripes on pale green or yellow/gold culms.
'Dendrocalamus minor 'Amoenus'

25 feet 2 inch plus 24 degrees f  Culms pale yellow with green stripes, smaller than the species.
Dendrocalamus sp. 'Parker's Giant'

What does a bamboo landscape look like?
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