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Nuda (Phyllostachys nuda)

This rare bamboo has purple culms that age to green. The edible shoots are especially tasty. It will reach 20' to 30' in height, with 1-1/2" diameter culms. It's very hardy – down to minus 20 degrees F.



Red Fastuosa (Semiarundinaria mackinoi)

This novel bamboo has always been popular. The culms turn brick red after a year. It can reach 30' in height, with 1-1/2" culms, and is hardy to minus 5 degrees F.

Keep in mind that these recommended bamboos are only suggestions based on popularity and hardiness. As your bamboo nursery grows, you'll likely find many more "must-have" varieties to grow and sell.

Because not all of us live in the warmer parts of North America, I've listed hardy bamboos that can survive cold winters. If you live in the southern part of the United States, your bamboo choices multiply greatly. For example, the genus *Bambusa* contain many wonderful subtropical and tropical clumping bamboos. So if your climate allows, expand your list of bamboo possibilities.



you can either: A. Tell them you're planning a wholesale nursery, and want to grow what's in demand. B. Just say that you're working on a landscaping project.

Next, check out the web sites of the wholesale bamboo nurseries listed in the resource chapter in this guide. You'll find the more popular varieties are often available in several sizes, which gives you a clue that variety is in demand. You can also call any of the wholesale nurseries and simply ask them which are the best sellers.

Finally, re-read the bamboo descriptions listed in chapter one, as these varieties have been proven sellers over time.

Best Sizes To Grow

The smallest size normally used for container growing is the one gallon (#1) size, or a pot that's about 6" x 6", holding about three quarts of soil. When you grow the larger bamboo plants, which will require larger containers, you will usually have much less competition, and the higher prices will more than make up for the extra time required to produce the larger stock.



Many growers choose a mix of smaller bamboo plants for the lower priced volume market, and larger bamboo plants for the higher prices that landscapers and homeowners willingly pay. Keep in mind that most purchasers associate quality with size, so a well shaped plant only one foot tall is not nearly as attractive to them as the same plant three or four feet tall. Each may be the best quality, yet size will make the difference.

Remember that to do the same dollar volume, you'll need to grow many more one gallon plants for sale than

– Chapter Four –

How To Propagate Bamboo

Now that you've purchased and planted your beginning stock of bamboo varieties, you'll need to be patient while they grow. (A small amount of organic all-purpose fertilizer in the spring will help.) In the spring of the second year, you should be able to divide your plants to produce more.

Growing bamboo from divisions is the most common method of bamboo propagation. In addition, it will produce bigger plants faster than other methods.



When new clumps begin to emerge from the ground, cut the rhizomes and wind them into a tight wreath and tie with string. You can also cut the rhizomes into short lengths, but make sure each piece has two or three “eyes”, the small triangular shoots that are located at the joint of the underground stems.

It is at the “eye” where the new culms grow out. Keep the rhizomes moist both before and after planting. A cup of composted steer manure will provide the nitrogen to help the new plant along.

Propagating the “clumping” bamboos is not as easy, because they do not produce the long runners that are so easy to snip off. So you have to carve a piece from the clump in early spring to create new plants. First, loosen the soil from the side of a clump until the roots and rhizomes are exposed.