

Red Cloud Bamboo



*Discover the
Magic of
Bamboo*



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"The bamboo that bends is stronger than the oak that resists"
Japanese Proverb

We grow Bamboo for you *With Melbourne & Victoria in mind*

Bamboo is a versatile garden species and a great asset to your garden. There are more than 1,200 species in the world, and at Red Cloud Bamboo, we have focussed on collecting those most suited to the extremes of our Melbourne and Victorian weather.

We've specifically chosen a good range of varieties, including the ornate and less invasive types, covering the sizes and growth

patterns the modern gardener or landscaper is looking for.

Locally grown plants won't suffer the shock of transport, difficulties adjusting to a new weather pattern, or days being transported without water. They also don't have the pests the northern-grown plants can bring down with them.

Your new bamboo will feel at home from the start.

The Secrets of Bamboo

Bamboo is in fact a species of grass

Understanding that Bamboo is a type of grass gives much insight into its behaviour and how to look after it.

Grasses grow rapidly during spring and summer. Each stem

or culm of bamboo will grow to its full height (according to the maturity of the plant) over 60-90 days.

It will respond quickly to nitrogen based fertilisers during





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this phase. During the cooler months, bamboo is using more phosphorus and potassium as it invigorates its root system.

Nevertheless, a good all-round fertiliser or compost will be great for your bamboo.

Most bamboos reach their mature growth pattern in about 5 years.

Slow start, Rapid growth

The advantage of quick garden establishment from the rapid growth of bamboo needs to be balanced with consideration for the space you're working with.

Bamboo only flowers occasionally, with a great difference between species. When planted from seed, bamboo can take as

The main factors influencing growth will be water, nutrition, warmth and sun. Bamboo might grow a bit taller and have more leaves where there are more of these elements.

Also like grasses, bamboo's, root system is quite shallow, and good at controlling erosion and maintaining the top soil.

long as 4 years to send up its first shoot. During that time, amazing preparation work for the dazzling growth is happening underground.

We propagate from divisions and cuttings, knowing you can be confident in the growth patterns of your new bamboo.





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Creating your own Peaceful Haven.

Creating Height, Privacy, Sound Reduction and Windbreaks

While only taking up a small amount of space at the base, (around 0.5 - 2m²), a clumping bamboo can create a great amount of height in a relatively short space of time.

When strategically placed, you can control the view you will have from many perspectives in your home and garden within the next couple of years.

The graceful foliage and stems of bamboo can create a barrier and filtering effect on air and sound. Both air speed and noise penetration are reduced. In addition, the bamboo itself gives a unique rustling sound

which provides a peaceful noise masking.

There is a soothing feel added to a garden even with one bamboo feature, and we invite you to experience that by visiting us at our display gardens.

The table in the centre of this book can help to estimate the right height and space to allow for your bamboo.

Whether you prune or let your bamboo reach its natural height, each species has a good range of adaptability to fit with your garden.





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Hedges

Hedges normally take years to mature into a cohesive form, but with bamboo purchased in pots, you can do it in one to three seasons.

The stems, or culms of bamboo can be easily cut to your chosen height with a pruning saw for larger types, or secateurs for smaller culms.

Pruning can be done at any time of year. You will start to get a feel for how to maintain the height of the hedge you want, by cutting the culms to the required length.

As no further growth will

occur above the cut culm, the bamboo will send more energy into the side branches, which will show more growth.

These side branches can also be cut, according to your desire to display the interesting culms, or control the width of the hedge.





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Pruning tips for Maintaining Bamboo

Cutting the culm

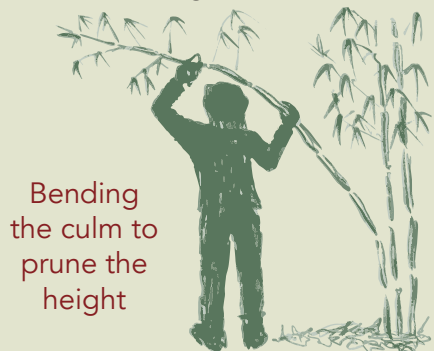
Each stem of bamboo is called a culm. Once a culm is cut, it will not grow further in height.

You may want to cut the culm to control the height, to thin out a more densely growing plant from the base, or encourage more vigorous foliage below. This type of pruning can also allow more sun to the lower part of the bamboo.

To cut a culm, it is best to do it horizontally, not diagonally, and to make the cut just above a node. If you are completely removing the culm, just cut it as close as possible to ground level. Each culm of the smaller to average sized bamboos are flexible enough to bend down

to a level where they can easily be reached. This eliminates the need for ladders in most instances.

Each culm that is either weak or dead (the lifespan of each culm is about 5 years) can be cut out as close as possible to ground level. This can also be done to thin out your bamboo. New shoots can be thinned out by snapping them off as they start to emerge.





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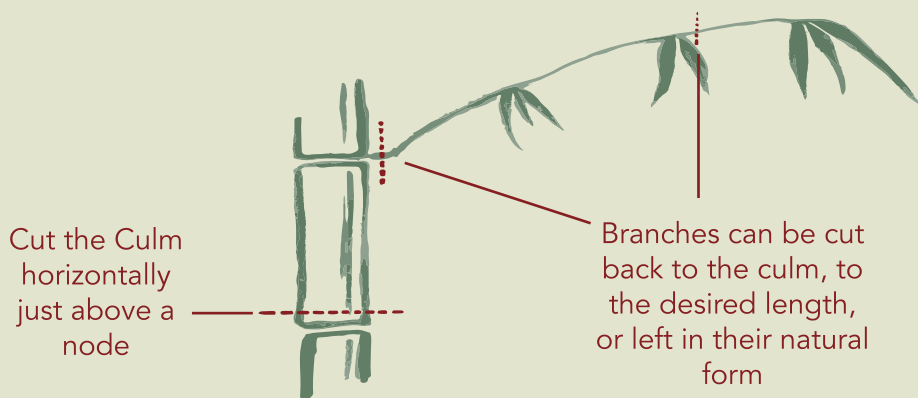
Transforming Bamboo for your space

Some bamboos are more naturally bare in the lower culm, while for others, you can cut back the side branches to display the decorative culm.

In some cases you may want to bring back the breadth of the foliage, so just snip the branch to the right width.

Not a lot of cutting back is required, and bamboo can be kept in check with only 1 or 2 prunings a year, depending on how manicured you want it to be.

Nevertheless, bamboo can easily tolerate being cut back by about 30% if you require.





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Choosing your Bamboo

A summary of Considerations ...

For most garden settings, we recommend the **clumping species**. They grow in a circular fashion from the centre, and won't spread.

The **running** or more invasive varieties are better capable of tolerating pots, and of course are easier to control this way. If planted, they can be controlled using troughs and other barriers to restrict growth of the running roots.

Whether you're planning on **pruning** to a particular **height**, or allowing the bamboo to grow to its natural form, have a think about which species will fit best. In general, the taller the plant, the greater the **base**

allowance, so although not a lot of space is required, this needs some consideration.

A few bamboos do well in **part shade**, but in general, the varieties that like **full sun** will also thrive in part shade.

Some bamboos naturally sit more **vertically**, while others maintain a beautiful **fountain** shape. This consideration can help you plan for interesting or different formations.

Note that the natural height can vary according to the nutrition level of the soil, how much sun it's getting, and how densely you're planting your bamboo.





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Colours, of both the foliage and leaves are also important for many gardeners. You can peruse more details of the colour variations online at www.redcloudbamboo.com.au or visit our nursery in Heatherton.

All of the species we sell are very frost tolerant, and well suited to the Melbourne climate.

The table on the following page outlines our varieties of bamboo, to help you arrive at the best choice

Let us know if you have any bamboo questions!

Questions and notes

