
Exotic Bamboo

Phyllostachys aurea and other spp.

Identification:

Members of the grass family (monocots), these species all resemble native river cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), but in most cases are much larger and faster growing. Some species can grow over thirty feet tall! The canes are also much weaker than rivercane, and the roots are poorly formed.

Origin: China and Japan

Habitat:

Prefers full sun in most climates, but can grow in partial shade. It needs a large amount of water to support its fast growth rate; this keeps it near streams or rivers in most cases. Will grow and spread incredibly fast in moist, deep loamy soil, but will spread at a slower rate in less favorable conditions.

Ecological Threat:

Exotic bamboo is a threat to rare riparian habitats. It forms impenetrable thickets where it infests, and crowds out all native plant life. It spreads laterally via rhizomes, and has been known to spread at an alarming rate in moist areas. Bamboo also causes streambank erosion. It crowds out native plant species and trees in riparian areas, and the bank erodes rapidly beneath the shallow, weak roots of the bamboo.

Native alternatives:

Rivercane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), pictured below
Switchcane (*Arundinaria tecta*)



Developed and published by:
Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition
90 Tennessee Street, Ste. D
P.O. Box 889
Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-5414
www.hrwc.net