

Bamboos are evergreen plants and thrive best in rich, moist but well drained soil in a sheltered spot. It is important to incorporate generous amounts of compost or well rotted manure to enrich the soil. Immerse new plants in water immediately, taking them out of the pot first and never allowing them to dry out.

**1**

### Planting

Dig the planting hole so that the rootball sits slightly deeper than the original depth allowing a thin covering of soil over the top of the original surface. Firm well when back filling the planting hole. Being very shallow rooted they appreciated a good thick mulch of bark, compost, manure or leaf mould. Keep well watered for the next 3 - 6 months until well established, then during any prolonged dry spells. It is essential to thoroughly wet the soil so that the water penetrates down to the roots never sprinkle. Try to give protection from cold drying winds which can desiccate the leaves.

**2**

### Container Growing

Bamboo can also be grown in large containers but more care is required. Pot on into a larger pot in a good soil based potting compost such as John Innes No.3. Take care never to allow the compost to dry out. During summer water frequently and feed regularly. Always make sure to have plenty of compost in the pot and that the pot is not just full of roots. Leave at least 4 inches at the top of the pot free to allow for adequate and easy watering. During winter reduce water and stop feeding.

**3**

### Maintenance

The leaves are borne on small branches which encircle the canes. In spring there is considerable yellowing of the leaves followed by some leaf drop. This is normal as new leaves are produced. Remove any weak or damaged canes cutting them to the ground and tidy up debris. Some of the old leaves often become papery and brown and stay attached to the plant long after they are dead.

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Grasslands Nursery, Free Green Lane, Lower Peover, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9QY. Tel: 01565 723 211