



BAMBOO BAN DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

Design & Installation:

- Natural Gardens
- Japanese Gardens
- Bed Maintenance
- Therapeutic Gardens
- Paths & Patios
- Stone & Brickwork
- Specialty Gardens
- Seasonal Color & Interest

Fall To-Do List:

- Clean out annuals & vegetable plants
- Remove dead, diseased & broken branches from trees & shrubs
- Cut back and mulch perennials
- Clean & put away garden equipment for winter

More tips on our website
www.ogdens.com

Ogdenwords:

Culm: The stem of a plant, usually hollow except at the nodes, such as stems of grasses, eg bamboos.

Rhizome: Normally a horizontal creeping stem lying on or under the ground from which shoots will arise and roots descend; a type of rootstock. The bearded iris is an example of an underground rhizome.

Temperate: Moderate in respect to temperature; not subject to prolonged extremes of hot or cold weather.

This year towns and villages on Long Island have enacted legislation regarding the planting and maintenance of bamboo. Some bamboo varieties can be very invasive, especially if they are running forms that were not installed with root barriers or any means of control. New legislation has been designed to give property owners recourse in controlling bamboo that has run amuck. People who have bamboo on their property can now be held accountable, to contain and control the invasiveness, and sometimes destructive root systems, of these perennial evergreens. It's not hard to contain, but you must know the right way to do it. There are even varieties that don't run and don't need containment. Let's start by understanding the basic fundamentals of the plants and then we can discuss the means and ways to control them.

Bamboo is a member of the *Poaceae* or grass family. They are some of the fastest growing plants in the world. They are native to Asia, India and South America. Most bamboos typically found on Long Island originated from China. They are temperate and can survive temperatures as low as -20 degrees Fahrenheit.

On Long Island, bamboo stems or culms emerge from the ground in June and July and grow to their full height within a couple of months. Then branches extend from the nodes and leaf out. Over the next couple of years, the inner pulpy wall of each culm hardens as it matures. As the clump and its rhizomes mature, taller and larger culms will be produced. The height and diameter of each culm is dependent on both the age of the clump and the variety. In very cold temperatures or with winter's desiccating winds, leaves and stems may brown and die. Since the roots are hardy, new shoots and foliage will emerge later in spring.

Bamboos fall into two categories: running

and clump forming. *Phyllostachys* is one of the most commonly found genus on Long Island. It is a running type of bamboo. Ranging in height from 20' to 60', some different species include: *P. aurea* (yellow stems), *P. aureosulcata* (larger growing with yellow stems), and *P. bissetti* (green/black stems with a white line at each node). A running bamboo's root system will extend out as far as the height of the culm annually. These roots will continue to spread every year. If left unchecked they can be very invasive and destructive, and because their roots are very tough, almost like a steel cable, they are difficult to eradicate.



Less common, but hardy to Long Island, is *Fargesia nitida* and *Fargesia murielae*. Known as the umbrella bamboo, they are delicate and smaller in stature. Growing to a height of 10' to 15'. The roots are clump forming and do not spread, making them much easier to manage and contain.

If you need to contain bamboo, the best way is with a plastic root barrier. We recommend for most situations a barrier 36" deep, with 6" above and 30" below ground. Kew gardens, in England, have been studying and maintaining bamboos since 1891. They developed this technique which many have utilized. It has withstood time, lasting for decades. The barrier must be made from a continuous sheet of plastic, that folds back on itself creating a closed end. Part of the barrier extends above ground so that roots can be monitored annually, ensuring that they don't jump over the top and escape.

Ogden's is a member of the American Bamboo Society and has been successfully installing root barriers for over 15 years. If you are unsure of what to do with your bamboo Ogden's can guide you through the process. Give us a call, we will ensure the planting and maintaining of bamboo will be beautiful and manageable for you!