

A photograph of a dense bamboo forest. Tall, green bamboo stalks rise vertically, creating a canopy of green leaves. A narrow, light-colored path leads from the foreground into the distance, flanked by lower, brownish bamboo or grass. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the path.

Don't get Bamboozled!

A brief overview of Ornamental Bamboo

- Clare Truong

Poaceae

is the grass family

Monocot

SOME THREATENED

Bamboo

Bambusoideae subfamily

DIVISION: [Magnoliophyta](#) CLASS: [Lilospida Monocots](#) ORDER: [Cyperales](#)

FAMILY: [Poaceae](#) SUBFAMILY: [Bambusoideae](#) GENUS: [91 genera](#)

SPECIES: [more than 1,400](#)

Source:
San Diego Zoo!

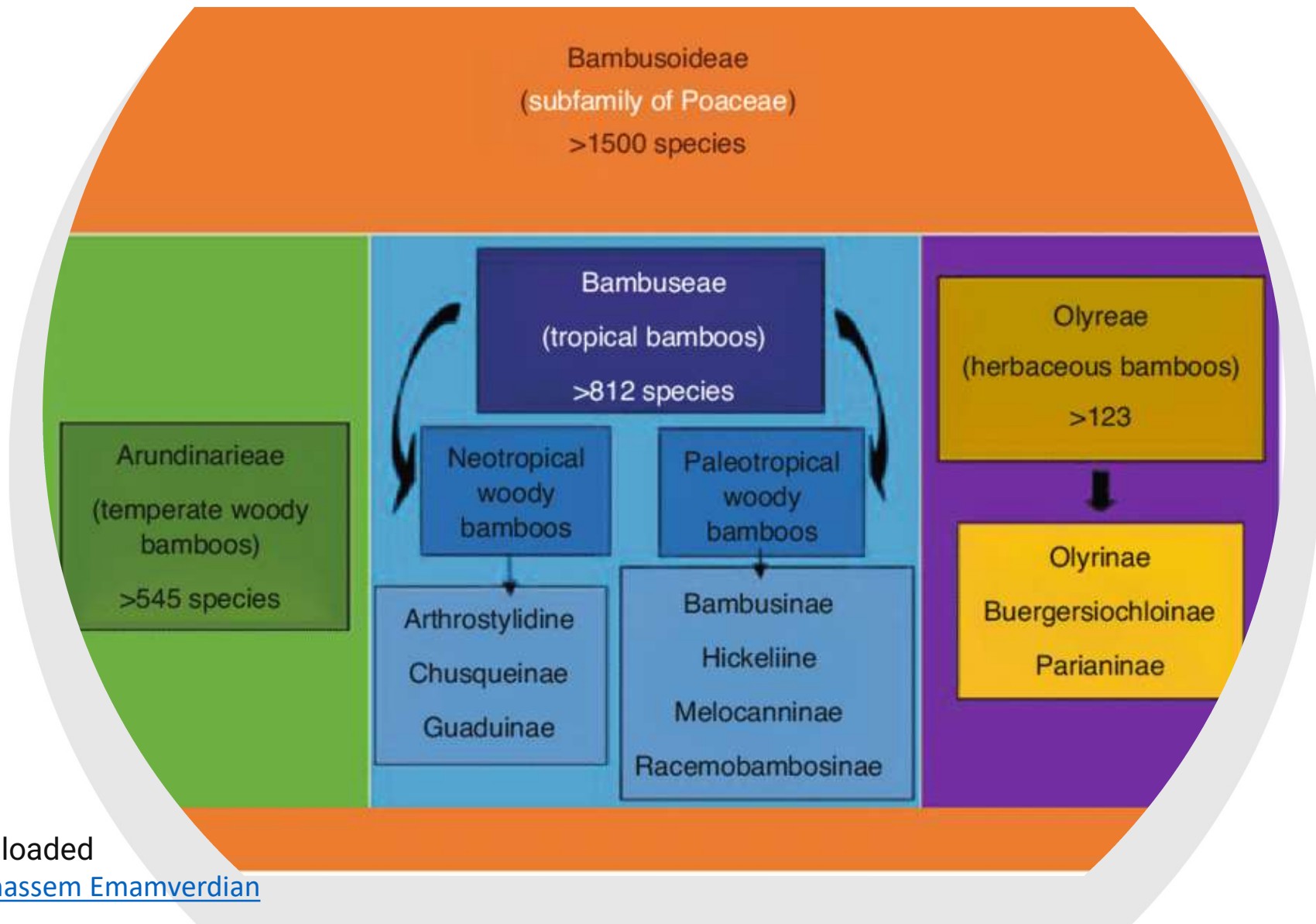
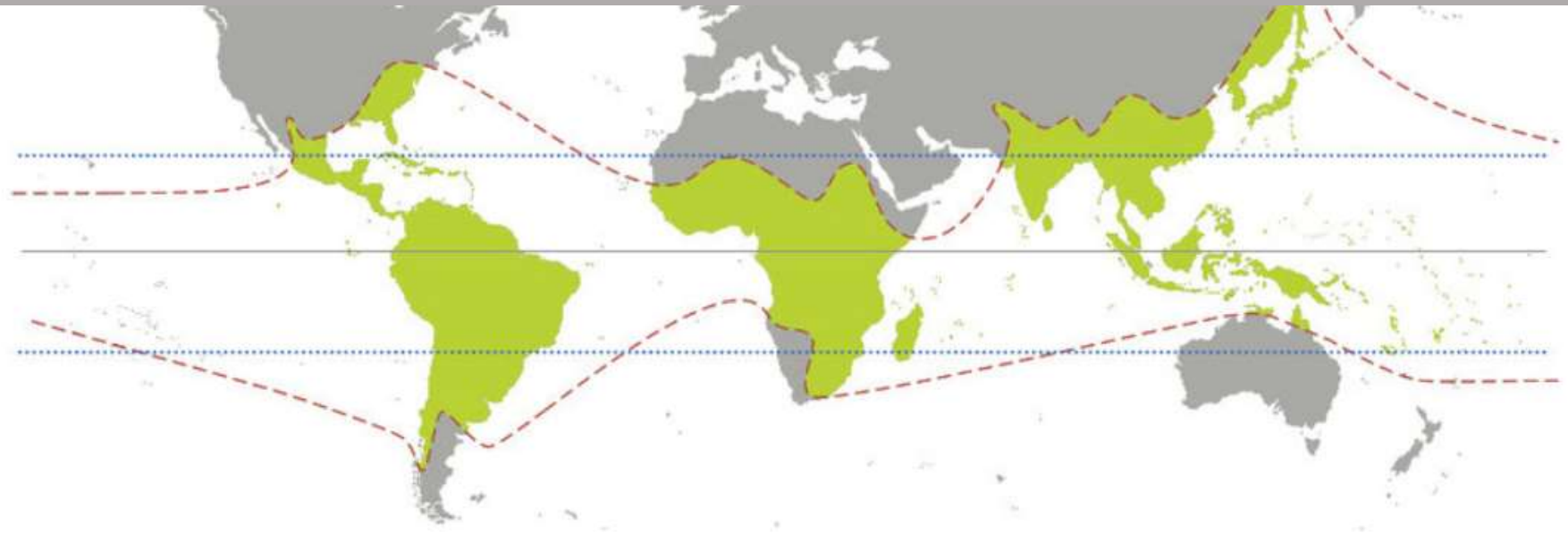
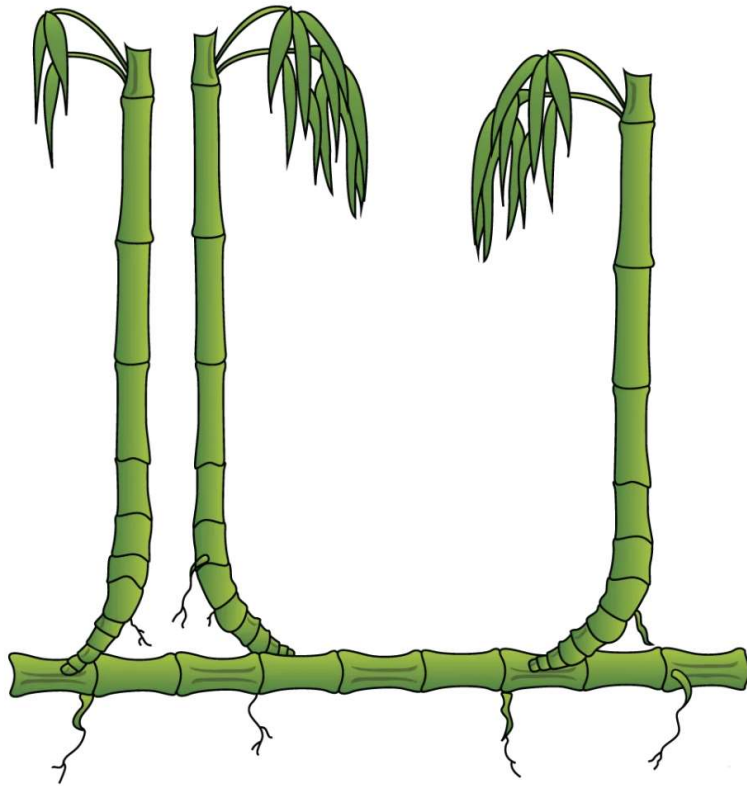


Fig 1 - uploaded
by [Abolghassem Emamverdian](#)

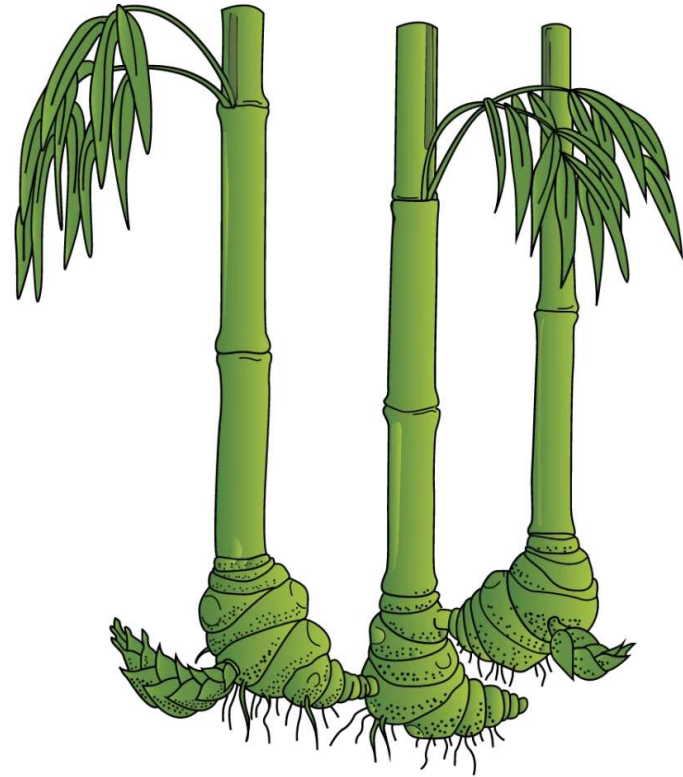
Native to the tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions of the world. From sea level up to snow-capped mountains at 13,000 feet in elevation. As little as 30 inches to as much as 250 inches of annual rainfall.



Global Natural Bamboo Habitat. Source: (National Geographic 1980)



Running



Clumping

Common Types of Bamboo



Giant Timber Bamboo (*Phyllostachys bambusoides*) up to 100 ft tall!



Golden Goddess Bamboo (*Bambusa multiplex golden goddess*) hedges



Dragon Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus asper*) largest bamboo in the world



Buddha Belly Bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris 'Wamin'*) prefers a pot!



Painted Bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris 'Vittata'*) common for temperate



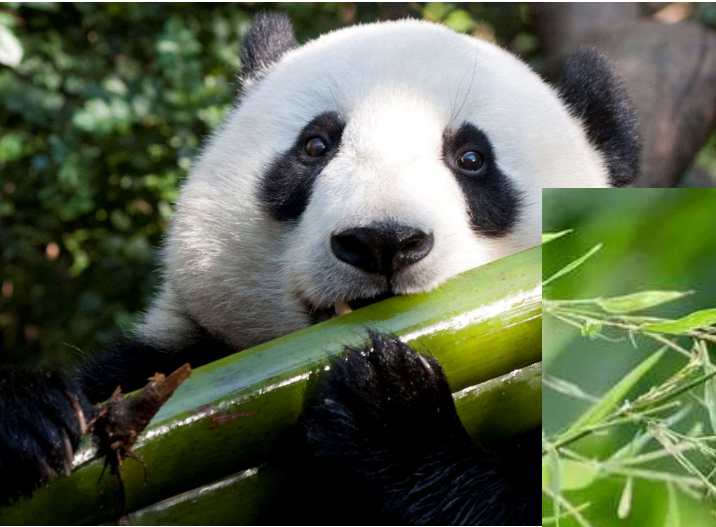
Black Bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) unique black coloration



Monastery Bamboo (*Thyrsostachys siamensis*) common at monasteries



Umbrella Bamboo (*Fargesia murielae*) lovely cascading shape



Which animals can neutralize the cyanide in bamboo shoots?!





Grow your own edible bamboo. See the table below for some edible species we offer.

| Species | Tastefulness | Productivity |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Phyllostachys atrovaginata 'Incense Bamboo' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★☆☆ |
| Phyllostachys aurea 'Golden Bamboo' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★☆ |
| Phyllostachys aureosulcata 'Yellow Groove Bamboo' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★☆ |
| Phyllostachys bambusoides 'Slender Crookstem' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★☆ |
| Phyllostachys bissetii | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★★ |
| Phyllostachys bissetii 'Dwarf' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★★ |
| Phyllostachys decora | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★☆ |
| Phyllostachys dulcis 'Sweet Shoot' | ★★★★★ | ★★★☆☆ |
| Phyllostachys edulis 'Moso' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★☆☆ |
| Phyllostachys heteroclada 'Purpurata' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★☆☆ |
| Phyllostachys nigra 'Giant Gray' | ★★★★★ | ★★★★★ |
| Phyllostachys nuda | ★★★★★ | ★★★☆☆ |
| Phyllostachys rubromarginata 'Red Margin' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★★ |
| Phyllostachys viridis 'Robert Young' | ★★★★☆ | ★★★★☆ |

Slicing bamboo shoots into thin strips liberates hydrogen cyanide, which is removed by boiling.

Bamboo Pests & Disorders

Invertebrates

- [Aphids](#)
 - Bamboo aphid
- [Mealybugs](#)
 - Noxious bamboo mealybug
- [Pit scales](#)
 - Bamboo scale
- [Spider mites](#)
 - Bamboo spider mite
 - Persea mite
- [Whiteflies](#)
 - [Giant whitefly](#)

Environmental disorders

- [Mineral deficiencies](#)
 - Iron deficiency
- [Nutrient and mineral excesses](#)
- [Poor water management](#)

Diseases

- [Armillaria root rot](#)
- [Decay or sapwood rot](#)

Uses for Bamboo

- timber for shelter
- suspension bridges
- skyscraper scaffolding
- musical instruments
- furniture
- paper
- food
- medicine
- the filament for Thomas Edison's first successful light bulb!



FUN FACT

Eventually, at a point in time that varies by species, the bamboo plant develops grass-type flowers. When pollinated, the blossoms produce seeds, and the entire plant, which at this point has spread over a wide area, dies. An unknown mechanism causes each species to flower globally and die back at the same time. Some types flower every 50 years; others don't flower for more than 100 years.

Where to see Bamboo?

- San Diego Zoo
- Japanese Friendship Garden
- San Diego Botanic Garden

The [San Diego Botanic Garden](#) (SDBG) has the largest public bamboo collection in the United States, comprising 121 taxa from Asia, South Africa and even Africa.