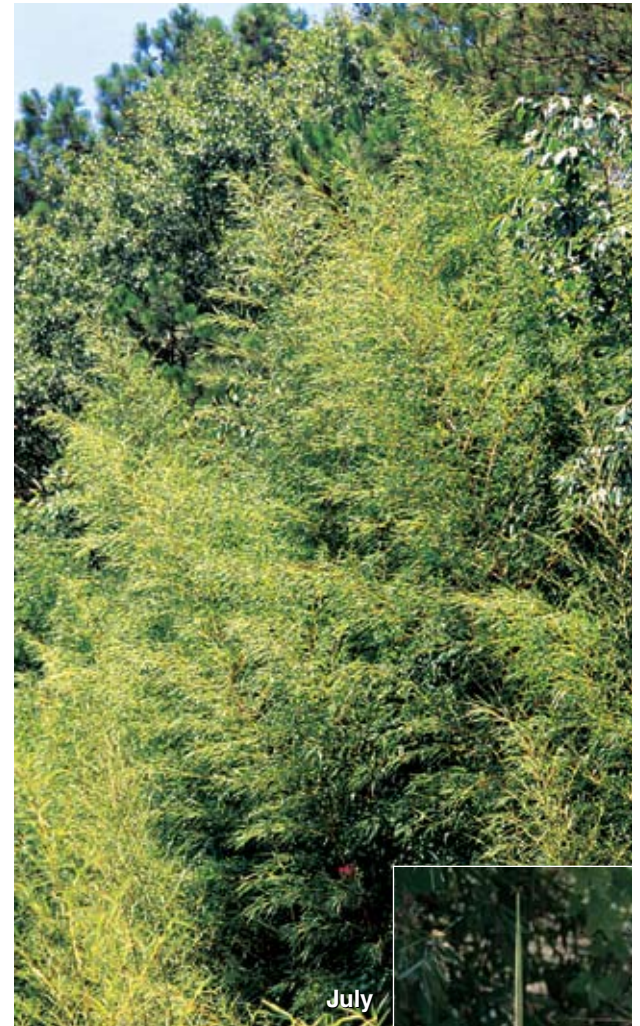


Bamboos



Golden bamboo shown in all images

GRASSES

Golden bamboo, *Phyllostachys aurea* Carr. ex A. & C. Rivière PHAU8 and other invasive bamboos, *Phyllostachys* spp. and *Bambusa* spp.

Plant. Perennial infestation-forming bamboos, 16 to 40 feet (5 to 12 m) in height, with jointed cane stems and bushy tops of lanceolate leaves in fan clusters on grass-like stems, often golden green. Plants arising from branched rhizomes.

Stem. Solid jointed canes 1 to 6 inches (2.5 to 15 cm) in diameter. Hollow between joints. Golden to green to black. Branches wiry and grasslike from joints. Lower shoots and branches with loose papery sheaths that cover the ground when shed.

Leaves. Alternate, grasslike, often in fan clusters. Blades long and lanceolate, 3 to 10 inches (8 to 25 cm) long and 0.5 to 1.5 inches (1.3 to 4 cm) wide. Veins parallel. Often golden, sometimes green or variegated. Hairless except for large hairs at base of petiole, which shed with age. Sheaths encasing stem.

Flowers. Flowers very rarely.

Seeds. Seeds very rarely.

Ecology. Common around old homesites and now escaped. Colonize by rhizomes with infestations rapidly expanding after disturbance. General dieback periodically after flowering and seeding (about every 7 to 12 years) resulting in standing dead canes and new shoots.

Resemble switchcane, *Arundinaria gigantea* (Walt.) Muhl., the only native bamboo-like cane in the South, distinguished by its lower height—usually only 6 to 8 feet (2 to 2.5 m)—and its persistent sheaths on the stem and absence of long opposite branches.

Also resemble giant reed, *Arundo donax* L., also described in this book.

History and use. All native to Asia. Widely planted as ornamentals and for fishing poles.

States with suspected infestations are shown in gray.



Bamboos

4130



Golden bamboo

July