

The wide diversity of ornamental bamboos for landscaping

SharathKumar M, M. Jawaharlal and M. Ganga

Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India

Ornamental bamboos are among the most fascinating of plants. Their unusual life cycle, tremendous power of growth and extraordinary diversity of size and form give them a special significance in gardens. Bamboo is a very interesting grass whose graceful culms, branches and leaves lend peace and serenity to any landscape. Landscape gardens of all sizes can accommodate these elegant plants, which are cold-resistant and surprisingly easy to grow. Some bamboos make impressive specimens for the border, others form a fast-growing hedge or screen, and short forms provide a leafy groundcover. Though many different bamboos can serve multiple purposes, these highly coloured, eye catching specimens are often best appreciated as ornamental plantings. Stripped of their lower branches, and maintained in contained areas, these make an impressive, highly visible focal point in any landscape. Bamboos are considered as best materials for the development of urban parks. More than 1350 botanical species of bamboos are scattered all over Asia, South America and Africa in areas between latitudes of 0° to 45° N and S and at altitudes of 3000 meters. Over 60% of the species known are distributed in tropical and subtropical Asia with good assortment of coloured mutants. The differences in size and architecture make ornamental bamboos an interesting element for interiorscapes as well as for exterior landscaping. Thus, bamboo is becoming a favourite feature in garden as ground cover, live fence, hedges, or as a focal point in a landscape. Planting bamboos in garden, or other forms of landscape needs a little thought and planning.

Biography

SharathKumar M. has completed his B.Sc (Horticulture) at the age of 22 from University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot. At present he is pursuing M.Sc.(Horticulture) in Floriculture and Landscape Gardening under the guidance of Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Professor and Head, Department of Floriculture and Landscaping from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. He is credited with five research publication in horticulture and has attended horticultural international conferences.

sharathflori@yahoo.in