

Phyllostachys bambusoides

[Synonyms : *Bambusa castilloni*, *Phyllostachys bambusoides* var. *castilloni-holochrysa*, *Phyllostachys bambusoides* var. *castillonis*, *Phyllostachys bambusoides* var. *sulphurea*, *Phyllostachys castillonis*, *Phyllostachys castillonis* var. *holochrysa*, *Phyllostachys marliacea*, *Phyllostachys mazellii*, *Phyllostachys nigra*, *Phyllostachys quilioi*, *Phyllostachys quilioi* var. *castillonis-holochrysa*, *Phyllostachys quilioi* var. *castillonis*, *Phyllostachys reticulata*, *Phyllostachys reticulata* var. *castillonis*, *Phyllostachys reticulata* var. *holochrysa*, *Phyllostachys reticulata* var. *sulphurea*, *Phyllostachys sulphurea*, *Phyllostachys sulphurea* var. *viridis*]

MADAKE BAMBOO is an evergreen bamboo. Probably native to China it has bright green stems.

It is also known as Bamboo, Giant timber bamboo, Hardy timber bamboo, Japanese timber bamboo, Madake, and Timber bamboo.

Bambusoides is made up of the genus name *Bambusa* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning ‘like plants in that (bamboo) genus’.

In the mid-1980s authorities noted that at that time (if not since) this bamboo accounted for over 60% of Japan’s total bamboo harvest – which gives some idea of madake bamboo’s importance. It is also understood to be the most popular bamboo species cultivated in the United States because of its horticultural versatility.

The shoots, which are usually cooked (as they are then less acid than when raw), are eaten particularly in China.

It is said that if the output of a madake bamboo plantation is compared with that from a pine tree plantation of similar size, the pulp produced from the former is double that of the latter.

Today the stems furnish an important ‘timber’ in the East (larger stems are used in construction, and smaller ones are made into walking sticks, stakes and poles) and are also used for pulp.