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Phyllostachys nigra

[Synonyms : *Bambusa nigra*, *Bambusa puberula*, *Phyllostachys boryana*, *Phyllostachys henonis*, *Phyllostachys nigra* var. *henonis*, *Phyllostachys puberula*, *Phyllostachys puberula* var. *boryana*, *Phyllostachys puberula* var. *nigra*]

BLACK BAMBOO is an invasive clump-forming, evergreen bamboo. Native to southern China it has glossy, purplish-black or black stems.

It is also known as Bamboo, *Bambou* (French), *Bambou noir* (French), Black-caned bamboo, Black-stemmed bamboo, *Kuro chiku* (Japanese), Partridge cane, Wangee cane, and Whangee cane.

The young, tender, slightly crunchy shoots are edible.

Nigra means ‘black’ with reference to the mature stems.

This is only one of many species of bamboo (in this genus and others) that for many tropical countries are essential to everyday life as they provide fabric for shelter, transport, flooring, furniture, musical instruments such as flutes, toys, umbrella handles and coffins, as well as yielding shoots for food.

Black bamboo was introduced to Britain in either 1823 or 1825 and by 1837 one plant in the Horticultural Society’s gardens had reached a height of 7 feet – and this in an unnatural climate. Apparently it was a cane made from this bamboo that was the epitome of an Edwardian dandy’s attire during the first decade of the 20th Century in England.).