

Bambusa bambos

Common name : bamboo

Scientific classification



Kingdom : Plantae
Order : Poales
Family : Poaceae
Genus : *Bambusa*
Species : *B. bambos*



Bambusa bambos

DESCRIPTION

Bambusa bambos, the **giant thorny bamboo**, **Indian thorny bamboo**, **spiny bamboo**, or **thorny bamboo**, is a species of clumping bamboo native to southern Asia (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indochina). *Bambusa bambos* is a perennial Poaceae with a 24-32 year life cycle. It grows in erect clumps up to 20-35 m high. It is thick walled, with a diameter of 8-18 cm. There are 1-3 spines at each branch node. Leaves are thin, linear, up to 20 cm long. It takes 12 years to reach maturity. Flowering is gregarious and occurs after about 16 years. After flowering, seedling is profuse and the clump dies soon afterwards. *Bambusa bambos* is cultivated for building and scaffolding material.

The leaves can be used as fodder while shoots can be considered as vegetables and prepared to make food. The seeds are edible and used in times of food scarcity. The shoot shells, a by-product of the industrial canning of bamboo shoots, are available as both fresh and boiled material, and can be used as feedstuffs

USES

- They are extensively used in many applications, mainly for making bridges and for ladders. Leaves are used for thatching.

- Paste or ash of the roots is used locally in skin disorders. ringworm infection and dermatoses. Vanshalochan is used in vomiting, diarrhoea, heart disease, bleeding disorders. cough, asthma, chronic fever, general debility. Decoction of leaves is useful in dysmenorrhoea and amenorrhoea.
- Fruit acts on meda dhatu and is useful in fat metabolism and obesity. Decoction of roots is given in rabies.