



# ARROW BAMBOO

*Pseudosasa japonica* (Sieb. & Zucc. ex Steud.) Makino ex Nakai

**Common Names:** Arrow bamboo, hardy bamboo, slash bamboo, and metake

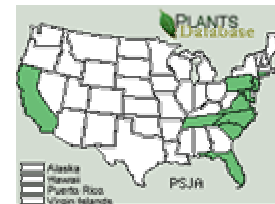
**Native Origin:** Japan & Korea and used to manufacture arrow shafts. It was introduced into U.S. from Japan in 1850 as an ornamental.

**Description:** Arrow bamboo is an evergreen perennial shrub or subshrub within group Monocot, of the Poaceae family. Erect culms (canes) with a .5 inch diameter grow up to 18 feet in height. Large glossy, dark green leaves grow approximately 1 foot long by 1.5 inches wide. Plants reproduce vegetatively with far-reaching rhizomes.



**Habitat:** Arrow bamboo prefers moist, well drained soil and will grow in sun or shade. Habitat includes USDA zones 6-10 where people have planted it and peripheral areas where it has spread.

**Distribution:** The National Park Service reports this species to be invasive in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. It is distributed to the states shaded on the Plant Database map.



**Ecological Impacts:** Arrow bamboo has been widely planted for its ornamental value, and typically it expands, via underground rhizomes, into areas where it is not wanted. Rhizomes can grow 5 feet or more a year. Once established, it can aggressively invade parklands or woodlands adjacent to planted groves.

**Control and Management:** Do not plant exotic bamboo.

- **Manual-** Place barriers between plantings, break off or cut new shoots, mow around edges of groves to prevent spread
- **Chemical-** Use glyphosate herbicide in September or October and repeat applications for re-growth

**References:** <http://plants.usda.gov>, <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/map/psja1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/map/psja1.htm), Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, USDA, p. 83, Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, p. 82