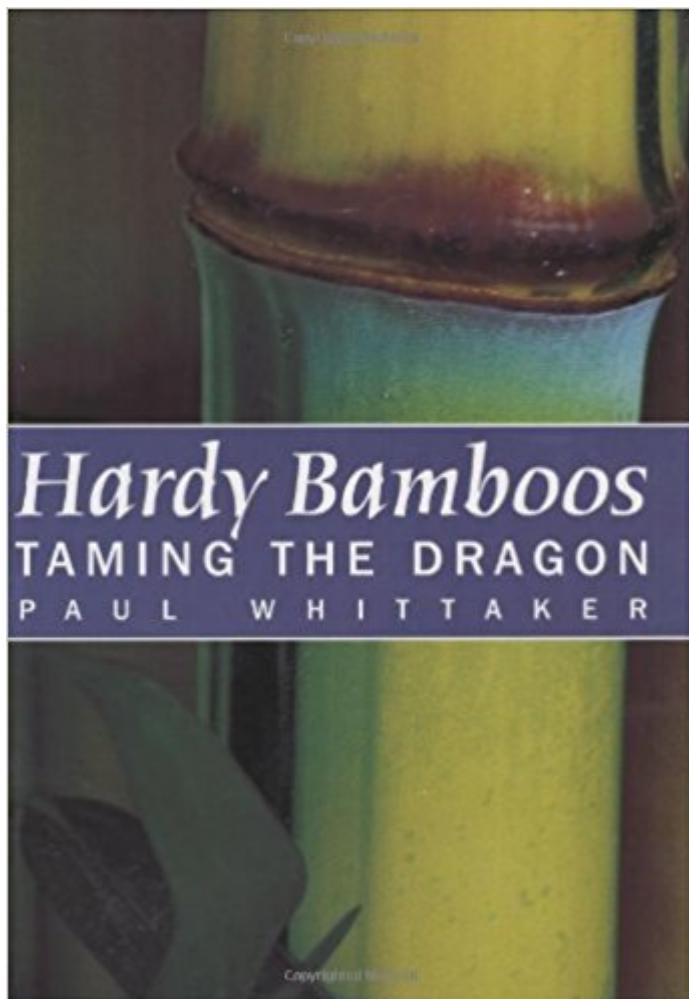


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# Hardy Bamboos: Taming The Dragon



## Synopsis

Bamboos are extraordinary in their ability to transform a garden, adapt to inhospitable surroundings, survive with little care and, most of all, surprise and delight the people who view them. Too long the exclusive pleasure of those with tropical and subtropical gardens, this hand-picked selection allows gardeners in cooler climes to experience the wonder and infinite variety of these magical plants. Besieged by winter wet, summer drought and bitter, drying winds, Paul Whittaker's garden has been a rigorous testing ground. In the first part of the book his compelling anecdotes, experiences and case histories illuminate how bamboos perform in different places, draw attention to their idiosyncratic nature, and highlight their geographical origins. A further section describes the bamboo's unique physical structure and growing habits. These fascinating insights give you the knowledge you need to choose the right bamboo for your site and grow it successfully. At the heart of the book are detailed plant descriptions that join with striking photographs and evocative illustrations to highlight each plant's characteristics. Using bamboos to best effect in the garden, propagation, aftercare and their resilience to pests and diseases complete the guidance for gardeners. The distillation of years of hands-on growing experience, this is the ultimate bamboo reference book for cool-climate gardeners. Enthusiasts will delight in the variety of new possibilities for their collection and gardeners everywhere will be captivated by the charm bamboos bring to countless different garden situations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Many gardeners fear bamboo and its propensity to spread, so Whittaker's subtitle is an apt one for a manual that offers guidance for dealing with hardy, woody species with useful and ornamental characteristics that can add much to a cool-climate garden. To-the-point and opinionated, Whittaker delights in sharing knowledge gleaned over many years of growing bamboos and offering irresistible descriptions accompanied by abundant line drawings and wonderful photographs. Conveying a contagious regard for these stately plants, Whittaker puts his expertise on the line in the book's fascinating plant portraits, which include growth habits, cultural requirements, and personal experiences. His descriptions should assist gardeners in selecting an appropriate variety for the specific conditions at hand, whether looking for groundcover, a container specimen, or a vigorous species to form a shady glade. With its celebration of plants boasting culms of gold and amber, chrome and pea green, violet-flushed bronze and cornflower blue, this is the ultimate guide to bamboos for gardens. Alice JoyceCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

The ultimate reference book for cool-climate gardeners. Enthusiasts and gardeners everywhere will be captivated by the charm bamboos bring to different garden situations. Publishing News 20050225 Whittaker includes much more data on bamboos suited to growing in temperate areas than we have seen before between the covers of any single book. HortIdeas 20050517 Whittaker presents detailed plant descriptions with stunning photos of the quite diverse "chosen few" likely to thrive in the US and UK. SciTech Book News 20050524 A beautiful and user-friendly tome that will be equally at home on the coffee table or in the reference library. -- Adam Turtle Bamboo 20050601 Wonderful book packed with useful information for anyone interested in bamboos. -- L. G. Kavaljian Choice 20050909 It's authoritative yet friendly, and the author knows of what he speaks ... fascinating reading. -- Kathy Bond Borie National Gardening Association Regional Reports 20050818 Hardy Bamboos will enchant the novice and serve as a great reference for any bamboo grower. -- Natasha S. Johnson Natchitoches Times 20051014 This is a must-have for gardeners who love bamboo. ... Whittaker infuses his book with striking and lush photography; a very personal yet authoratative storyteller's voice, and beautiful illustrations that show bamboo in all its glory. ... If you're looking for a book about bamboo, you need look no further. It's a winner. -- Madeline Caliendo Washington Gardener 20060101 Will help gardeners in cooler climates experience the wonder and infinite variety of these magical plants. Michigan Gardener 20060707 Well-written and beautifully illustrated; perhaps the best book on hardy bamboos yet published. -- Jon Ardle The Garden 20051101 To convey the visual opulence of Hardy Bamboos by means of language is challenging indeed. Suffice it so say that if you never read a single word of this book, if you never

cultivate even one bamboo plant, if you only turn the pages and look at these pictures, you will be very glad you did. -- Josephine Bridges Asian Reporter 20060905

Bought myself a used copy. The book is in superb condition, filled with images and highly informative text. I bought the book as part of a project to install a bamboo fence in my yard, not an easy project in Tucson Arizona where there is only one nursery that specializes in bamboo and which to me at least, is overpriced-so the task of even getting a bamboo plant here can be a chore. The book is excellent in showing in and outs of bamboo, but its from another temperate zone, whereas in Tucson we are in a zone, that I can only describe as "low oven setting" for part of the year. Despite the books treasure trove of information on what I should be growing in this climate zone, I ended up rescuing a dying black bamboo plant from "death row" of a local nursery and the rest of my plants have come from a "nursery in the wild." Upon putting the black bamboo on a good diet of water, it recovered in an explosive manner and its now growing at an incredible rate. The "wild nursery" plants have also taken off at an incredible growth rate, showing that being a beggar and not a chooser have given me a sizable collection of bamboo plants with little or no expenditure of funds! I am still reading the book and enjoy the high quality photographs. If you are into bamboo growing, even as a professional nursery, you should have a copy of this book.

An excellent book, left me hungry for more from Mr. Whittaker, though the book is by no means lacking in content. I'm fairly new to growing bamboo and I found this book an easy to understand resource for identifying and selecting species. Paul doesn't get too deep into botanical detail to lose the layman but still covers important technical terms relating to bamboos. The fact that he has personal experience growing most of what he describes and first hand experience with the others, lends credibility to his writing. Great photos and illustrations as well. As the cover says, Hardy Bamboos; not a book that covers species that don't do well below around zone 7; Paul lives and grows in eastern England.

Absolutely!!!! I grew up in Southern California, and my favorite gardens had beautiful bamboo. I now live in Alaska, and had thought I would never ever be able to grow bamboo here in the Kenai Peninsula, until I somehow ran across this book while surfing on .The author reminded me that even in China, there are areas with the same climate as Kenai, and now I'm in the process of tracking down plants to relocate. And considering that I have a protected inner courtyard, I might be able to squeak a few Zone 7's, too.This is an amazing resource! If one could only buy one book, this would

be it -- it has everything regarding growing these mammoth plants, plus the author's enthusiasm for these plants is very contagious.

I began studying and growing bamboos in 1992. Back then there was virtually no books on bamboo which were up-to-date, comprehensive, and interesting from the point of view of a plantsman or garden designer. After a hiatus of 7 years living without bamboos and not seeking books on them, I have returned! And just in time!! Published in 2005, Paul Whittaker's book, *Hardy Bamboos: Taming the Dragon*, has come out just as I have returned to my former love. I could not have had a more welcoming and helpful book to greet me. This book is not just a compendium. Or an encyclopoedia. Or chatty, folksy bamboo book for little old gardeners. It is the magnus opus of an inveterate bambusaphile who is also an accomplished plantsman and landscape designer and gardener. Bringing all these abilities together, Paul has wrought a fantastically interesting and very useful book for any bamboo-aholic. I was especially impressed with his first-hand knowledge of the temperate species and his ability to communicate this knowledge in a very personal yet also professional way. This book could easily have been called 'Adventures in Bamboos with Paul Whittaker'! I can't recommend this book highly enough. After so many years sans bamboos, I was fortunate to find this tome upon my return, as if it had been written for me and was just waiting for me to find it! Breck Breckenridge, Spokane

A great reference and full of good information. As always your mileage may vary with plants but using this will get you in the ballpark even in cool climates like new england.

I was expecting a paperback book for the price I paid but this hardcover edition exceeds all expectations. I have already decided to order more that will survive the winters here in Loveland, Colorado~!

The author is one of those true bamboo experts, with lots of hands on growing experience under a cool British climate. The excellent photography, good descriptions, and many personal observations make this book so unique among the other, often repetitious books on bamboo. If you live in USDA Plant Hardiness zone 6 or cooler, this is your best book!

One of the best books on growing bamboos that there is out there. Emphasis is on bamboos for cooler temperate climates. Great photos, and a good review of a wide variety of bamboos.

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