PLANT FACT SHEET

Phyllostachys nigra (Lodd. ex Lindl.) Munro

GENUS *Phyllostachys* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Black bamboo, Purple bamboo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots

The shoots are eaten cooked but the water needs to be changed after 8-10 minutes.

DESCRIPTION

A large bamboo grass. It grows 1.5-3 m high and spreads 1.8-3 m wide. It can be 10-15 m tall and spread 6-15 m wide. It forms clumps. The canes arch over. The canes are green in the first year then turn mottled to almost black. The canes are hollow and can be 3 cm thick.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. In Hunan in China it grows in open forests on slopes and in valleys between 1,100-1,200 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 7-10. Mt Cootha Botanical Gardens. Wittunga Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is usually grown by division of the underground rhizomes.

NOTES

There are about 80 Phyllostachys species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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