PLANT FACT SHEET

Dendrocalamus latiflorus Munro

GENUS *Dendrocalamus* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Sweet bamboo shoot, Dried bamboo shoot, Taiwan giant bamboo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots, Vegetable

The shoots are eaten cooked or canned. They are also shredded and dried.
They are also fermented.
The shoots are eaten raw. They are also shredded and dried and used in snacks.

DESCRIPTION

A tufted bamboo plant. It grows 20-50 m tall. The stems are long and bend. They are 10-30 cm across. The segments are 45-60 cm apart. The leaves are 6-15 cm long and 3-5 cm wide. The flowers are small. They are 12-15 mm across. They are feathery and red or purple in colour.

HABITAT

It is cultivated. It occurs in subtropical conditions. It grows up to 1,000 m altitude in Taiwan. It can tolerate temperatures to -4°C. It can also grow in the lowland tropics. It does best on moist fertile soil. Alkaline or acid soils are not suitable for shoots. Melbourne Botanical Gardens. In XTBG Yunnan. In Sichuan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by rhizome and culm cuttings. Fresh seed germinate in 2 weeks. Culm or stem cuttings 50 cm long with 2 nodes and from 2 year old culms are used. They are planted horizontally 6-10 cm deep. A spacing for shooted cuttings is 4-5 m apart. Harvested shoots are steamed, cut lengthwise, cleaned and sterilised in boiling water for 15 minutes before eating or canning. Shoots are harvested 7-25 days after they emerge.

Harvesting and Seed Production

A 1-2 year old culm can produce 5-10 shoots. These weigh 3-5 kg.

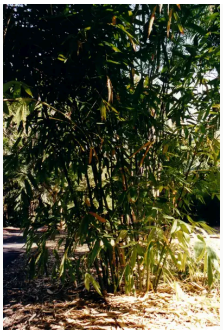
NOTES

It is also used in medicine. There are about 29 Dendrocalamus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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