PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Dendrocalamus membranaceus* Munro

**GENUS** *Dendrocalamus* **FAMILY** Poaceae

**COMMON NAMES** White bamboo

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Shoots

The shoots are eaten. They can be cooked and dried and preserved.

## DESCRIPTION

A bamboo which forms an open clump. The culm or stem is very straight. It grows 20-24 m high. It is 6-10 cm across. It has a white powdery covering over it when young. It turns green on maturity. The internodes are 22-38 cm long. The lower node has aerial roots. There are branches from the nodes. The culm sheath is 30-50 cm long by 12-20 cm wide. The leaf blade is sword shaped and 12-25 cm long by 1.5-2.5 cm wide. It is thin and pale. It tapers to the tip. The flowering stalks are on leafless branches.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in tropical mixed deciduous and monsoon forest. It grows below 1,000 m altitude. The minimum temperature is 14.5°C and average maximum is 33.3°C. The average rainfall is 950 mm. In Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or by cuttings of the rhizome or culm. Fresh seed germinate readily.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

The average fresh weight of young shoots is 1167 g and the edible portion is 40%.

## NOTES

There are about 29 Dendrocalamus species.

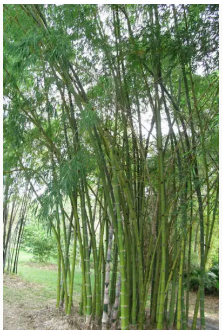
## PICTURES



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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