PLANT FACT SHEET

Dendrocalamus giganteus Munro

GENUS *Dendrocalamus* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Giant bamboo, Dragon bamboo

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Shoots

Young shoots are cooked and eaten as a vegetable. They are cooked with meat or fish.

DESCRIPTION

A clump forming bamboo. It can be 25-30-50 m tall. It has rhizomes which spread. The clumps can be 10-15 m wide. The canes can be 35 cm across. They are erect and jointed. The nodes are hairy. The leaf blades are sword shaped and smooth with fine teeth along the edge. The leaves can be 55 cm long. These clasp the canes at their base. The flower is a long panicle which droops.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It often grows in high mountains. It must have temperatures above 5°C. They are frost tender. It cannot tolerate drought. It prefers rich moist soil. In Nepal it grows between 200-1300 m altitude. In Yunnan it grows between 380-1,900 m above sea level. In Cairns Botanical garden. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The plants can be grown from seed. They can also be grown by dividing established clumps. Sections of the young stalk will shoot if cut and placed horizontally in a growing medium in a warm place. The cuttings should be 50 cm long and planted 20 cm deep.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Young shoots can grow at the rate of 30 cm a day.

NOTES

There are about 29 Dendrocalamus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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