

What is the Town doing about bamboo?



Councilwoman Susan A. Berland strongly supports amending the Code of the Town of Huntington to include Chapter 156A (Bamboo).

After months of research and discussions with both her colleagues and her constituents, Councilwoman Berland proposed legislation that seeks to preserve and protect private and public property from the damaging spread of certain running bamboo grasses, protect indigenous plant materials from the invasive spread of running bamboo and maintain the general welfare of the residents of the Town of Huntington.

The proposed legislation prohibits the planting of “running bamboo” and requires that property owners ensure that bamboo planted or growing on their property does not encroach or grow upon any other property or right of way.

Bamboo owners have a six month moratorium from the date the proposed legislation is filed to contain their plant before any penalty provisions take effect.



Image courtesy of: blog.charlestonnaturally.com

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact:

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Planting Bamboo:

The in's and out's of
responsible bamboo
ownership.



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What is bamboo? Separating fact from fiction.



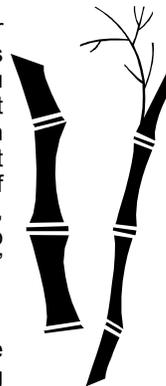
Bamboos are members of the grass family and there are over 1,400 known species of bamboo worldwide. There are two main classifications of bamboo: running (all species of *Phyllostachys*, *Sasa*, *Shibataea*, *Pseudosasa* and *Pleioblastus*) and clumping (*Fargesia*). Regardless of classification, bamboos are some of the fastest growing plants in the world and are capable of growing “60 centimeters or more per day due to their unique rhizome system.” (American Bamboo Society– ABS)

Bamboo is a renewable resource that is grown both for consumption and construction. When the proper measures are taken—careful planting, regular bi-yearly maintenance and pruning—bamboo can be a long-lasting addition to your garden. When improperly planted, it can wreak havoc on surrounding properties and rights of way, so caution is advised when purchasing this plant for your garden.

Plant responsibly: Make sure your bamboo stays put!

When planted, maintained and disposed of properly, bamboo is not invasive. But in the absence of barriers, bamboos will spread naturally through their rhizomes. Running bamboos are known to cover more ground than clumping rhizomes so it is important to choose your growing site and species of bamboo carefully (ABS).

If you wish to own or plant bamboo, it is imperative that you educate yourself about the species so you can plant and enjoy it responsibly. If mistreated and ignored, bamboo will grow into an “unruly mess” according to the ABS.



Man-made barriers are effective in containing the planted bamboo. Industry experts agree that the best barriers available are those made out of 80-mil thick HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) as metal barriers rust and wood barriers decay.

Cultivation Station: Proper pruning and plucking.

Once planted, bamboos are resilient and drought resistant. According to Bamboo Garden, the key to successful bamboo control is learning how to prune the rhizomes. This will keep your planted bamboo contained, as opposed to it jumping its barrier and ravaging all open space around it. When root pruning, work around the planted bamboo, driving a sharp spade into the ground and removing any “wayward” rhizomes. It is necessary to leave some rhizome attached so the bamboo will produce new shoots come spring.



If you wish to remove unwanted or unruly bamboo, you must dig out the bamboo and all rhizomes. If you are incapable of undertaking such a feat, please hire an expert to do so for you. Because of the potential for environmental damage, ground and water contamination, using chemicals to kill bamboo is ill-advised by most industry experts.

