



INVASIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

MARCH 2021



GOLDEN RUNNING BAMBOO

Phyllostachys aurea

HISTORY & IDENTIFICATION

- Introduced to southern US from China in 1870 for ornamental purposes, erosion control and soil stabilization.
- A woody, fast growing perennial and oversized member of the grass family, *Poaceae*.
- Most common bamboo in the US and one of the fastest growing plants on Earth, quickly forming a dense, nearly impenetrable stand, spreading up to an area of 10 miles.

LIFE CYCLE & GROWTH HABIT

- Stems are woody, hollow and jointed, which start green and then turn to yellow they age.
- Leaves are slender, lance-shaped and arranged in fan-like clusters.
- Grows in full sun and moist, deep, loamy soils. It can tolerate shade.
- It spreads quickly by underground roots or rhizomes.
- Only flowers every 7-12 years and seed production is rare.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

- Do not plant it!
- Remove from your landscape!
- Cut plants as close to the ground as possible.
- Repeat several times throughout the growing season as plants re-sprout.
- Monitoring will be necessary for several growing seasons until the energy reserves in the rhizomes are exhausted.



photo: <https://plants-archive.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/phyllostachys-aurea/>

RESOURCES

- <https://seagrant.psu.edu/sites/default/files/Golden%20Bamboo%20Fact%20Sheet%202018.pdf>
- <https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wow/golden-bamboo.pdf>
- <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/bamboo-control/>