

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Phyllostachys aurea – YELLOW BAMBOO, FISHPOLE BAMBOO, GOLDEN BAMBOO [Poaceae]

Phyllostachys aurea Rivière & C. Rivière, YELLOW BAMBOO, FISHPOLE BAMBOO, GOLDEN BAMBOO. Perennial herb, shrublike, evergreen, with “woody” stems (lignified secondary walls), rhizomatous, clonal, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted, clump with many stems but with single, suberect to ascending shoots arising periodically from horizontal rhizome, 1 shoot per node, shoots widely spaced along spreading rhizome and often appearing in straight lines, having 4 orders of stems, the lower portion of principal axis mostly lacking branches, midshoot and canopy mostly with (1) a pair of somewhat unequal branches from each axil (axillary bud + auxillary bud), paired lateral branches formed alternate distichous along principal axis, mostly widely spreading to spreading-ascending, to 100 cm long, primary branches with secondary branches formed to upper side and spreading, foliage mostly on tertiary branchlets, canopies of individual shoots overlapping, principal shoots mostly suberect to ascending (erect), in range 200–500+ cm tall; shoots having 2 types of leaves, primary axis leaves (culm leaves) = appressed and orthotropic, nonphotosynthetic basal and cauline leaves = sheath + slender photosynthetic blade at top, or leaf = only nonphotosynthetic sheath, often pale brown, of branches shoots often 2-dimensional (plagiotropic) with photosynthetic foliage at tips persisting on tips of minor branches and branchlets (foliage leaves), appearing glabrous; rhizome horizontal and relatively shallow, cylindrical, mostly 10+ mm diameter, yellowish tan, internodes mostly 4+ mm long (increasing by intercalary meristem), thick-walled, densely appressed hairy on nodes with downward-pointing hairs, internode hollow with pinhole in center, scales of rhizome open and encircling node, >> internode (scales overlapping), with dense, appressed, downward-pointing hairs at base, axillary bud recessed into internode, thick, mostly 5 × 7 mm, covered by prophyll having 2 keels ciliate and short-ciliate; adventitious roots only on rhizome with a ring of visible sites just above nodes. **Stems:** at ground level to 20 mm diameter, principal axis with internodes appearing cylindrical but concave above each axillary bud, of branches and branchlets cylindrical with rim along each encircling leaf scar, principal axis (aboveground) 5–20 mm diameter and with internodes < 40–200 mm long, “wall” thickness < 3 mm; primary lateral branch axis 1–5 mm diameter with internodes 10–80 mm long; secondary branch axis < 2 mm diameter and with internodes < 40 mm long, and tertiary branch axis ca. 1 mm diameter and internodes < 10 mm long; outer surface appearing glabrous, with conspicuous, glaucous, ashen gray band bracketing each node (leaf scar) or on minor branches the gray band only present below leaf scar, at tips of branchlets puberulent and short-hairy (sheaths); internodes with woodlike cylinder with hollow center and lignified “wall” < 3 mm thick. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath or having only sheath (basal and some cauline leaves on principal axis), and with sheath and shorter, narrow blade (most cauline leaves on principal axis), on lateral branches blade short-petiolate (pseudopetiole); sheath of basal and cauline leaves fully sheathing stem at node and cupping internode, lanceolate to ovate, to 320 × 65 mm, truncate at base (when flattened to 50 mm across), entire on margins, subtruncate at top, parallel-veined with veins slightly raised on both surfaces, blade long-tapered linear, < 35–85 × 2–4.5 mm, parallel-veined, glabrous; sheath (of foliage) = short internode, puberulent, petiole ± hemi-cylindrical, to 4 mm long, puberulent at least near base, blade elliptic or lanceolate-oblong to oblong or oblong-oblong, 50–125 × (10–)14–19 mm,

broadly tapered at base, with scabrous teeth on margins, acuminate at tip, parallel-veined with only midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, surfaces smooth, glabrous, with parallel veins and cross veins appearing regular like a brick wall.

Inflorescence: in range not observed.

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