

Phyllostachys aurea

COMMON NAME

walking stick bamboo

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Phyllostachys aurea Rivière

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fairly dense thicket-forming bamboo with rhizomes running extensively.

Culm (stem) usually 3–6 m, green during the first year, yellow afterwards.

Nodes on some shoots are congested and sometimes zigzag towards base, internodes swollen and often asymmetric. **Branches** spreading widely to give an open network. **Leaf-blade** usually 5–13 × 0.7–2 cm, lanceolate and pointed.

SIMILAR TAXA

There are other spp. of *Phyllostachys* in N.Z. with yellow stems but *P. aurea* is easily recognisable by the swollen and asymmetric internodes and zigzag nodes in the lower part of some culms in a clump. The cultivated *P. heterocykla* (Carrière) S.Matsum. also has lower internodes on some culms strongly swollen and grossly asymmetric, giving rise to zigzag nodes. However, the culm-sheaths are hairy abaxially in *P. heterocykla* but glabrous in *P. aurea*.

FLOWERING

Flowering not reported in NZ (Edgar and Connor 2002).

YEAR NATURALISED

1977

ORIGIN

South-eastern China

ETYMOLOGY

aurea: Golden yellow

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial

Reproduction

Long spreading rhizomes; no seeds (Cameron 1996).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/phylostachys-aurea/>