

# Pseudosasa japonica

## COMMON NAME

arrow bamboo

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pseudosasa japonica* (Steud.) Makino

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

PSEJAP

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Roadsides, riverbanks, in or around plantations, especially near garden boundaries, in scrub and on forest margins, abandoned garden sites and waste places (Edgar and Connor 2000).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium sized bamboo up to about 5 m, forming dense thickets with extensive rhizomes. **Culm** dark green, banded white just below nodes. **Branches** one per node, sometimes 2–3 at upper nodes. **Leaf-sheath** glabrous, often purplish above. **Leaf-blade** 3.5 × 25 cm long, one on each branch. This species has flowered frequently in NZ, the inflorescence is purplish on the exposed side, spikelets 4–9 cm, flattened.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*P. japonica* is the bamboo species most commonly known to flower in NZ. Distinctive vegetative characters include round, not notched, stem, the white band below the node and single branches on lower nodes, with 2–3 on upper nodes.

## FLOWERING

Flowered throughout 80's not since.

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Can flower continuously for several years. The thickets do not die completely after flowering although large parts often do (Edgar and Connor 2000). Spread is vegetative or by planting, Viable seed is uncommon (ibid.). No regeneration from seed so far has been reported (ibid.)

## YEAR NATURALISED

1968

## ORIGIN

Japan, S. Korea

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



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## ETYMOLOGY

**japonica**: Of Japan

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudosasa-japonica/>