



Commit to Bamboo Power!

FAQ about Bamboo
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beautiful and versatile

Where does bamboo grow?

The natural environment of bamboo is primarily located in Asia and South America. Many types of bamboo only grow in warm and humid climates, while certain types grow particularly well in the shade and in dry areas; bamboo is also very hardy. The plant grows on extremely steep slopes, but also in humid flat areas, areas which have been rendered arid – for example after clear cutting – can be revegetated using bamboo: The deep-delving roots of certain types can re-raise the groundwater level.

Where does bamboo grow best?

Mixed forests are the ideal environment. For industrial purposes bamboo is often grown as a monoculture. For cultivation this often requires the addition of fertilizer. The absence of a rich mixture of various woods and grasses places too heavy a burden on the soil.

How quickly does bamboo grow?

Many types of bamboo grow incredibly quickly. Under optimal conditions a bamboo shoot can grow up to almost 80 centimeters per day. The growth is dependent on climate and soil conditions. Bamboo only grows during a relatively short growth period, while later in its lifecycle the shoot does not grow any more. Bamboo does not grow in width; it is instead similar to the extension of a radio antenna. At first a stem with a certain diameter grows out of a bamboo shoot. It then grows upwards, tapering off as it rises

When can you harvest bamboo?

Bamboo does not need to be replanted and bamboo forests do not need to be reforested because in earlier forests the bamboo regrows from existing shoots. Bamboo therefore does not encroach into other agricultural areas. For the sake of good quality and sustainable harvesting it is important not to harvest bamboo during the growth period. The best harvesting period in China is from October to December. Both stems and shoots can be harvested. What is decisive is that the forest be viewed as an overall organism: The bamboo forest does not consist of individual trees; the plants are connected via a complex network of roots.

Is bamboo a type of wood?

Bamboo is an evergreen grass. The various types have different compositions and vary greatly in their dimensions (wall thickness, height, width, leaves). Bamboo stems are extremely hard but elastic, making them an ideal substitute for wood.

How many types are there?

Bamboo is a primeval plant of which 1,000 types are known. Bamboo is a global plant, with varieties adapted to the most varied climatic conditions. There are, however, two major varieties of bamboo: Tussock-forming ones and rhizome-forming ones.

rich health benefits

What is bamboo used for?

Bamboo is a wonderful resource with innumerable impressive properties. It can be used as a foodstuff, in medicine and cosmetics, as a construction material and a replacement for wood as well as in toys.

What are the properties of bamboo?

Bamboo is very functional. It has distinctive natural antibacterial functions and contains numerous healthy and healing substances such as bamboo camphor, flavonoids and amino and silicic acid. The germanium present in bamboo slows cell ageing. For centuries bamboo has played an important role in Chinese and Ayurvedic medicine, and bamboo shoots have long been used in Asian cooking. Bamboo is also extremely robust. More than one billion people live in bamboo houses, which are very resistant to earthquakes. The impact resistance and tensile strength of bamboo are higher than those of steel. Bamboo is one of the most oxygen-rich plants and can therefore also contribute greatly to combating global warming.

How can bamboo be cultivated sustainably and organically?

The sustainability begins with the resource itself. The soil and environment are very important. In mixed forests, alongside deciduous and coniferous trees, bamboo grows best in its biodiversity. The use of pesticides and fertilizers should be

avoided. Also important is the time of harvest. Long-distance transportation should also be avoided when processing the raw materials. For the sake of sustainability, the cultivation is closely linked to the processing industries which are located in close proximity to the bamboo plantations.

Why does it need Organic Bamboo?

Organic Bamboo Industries AG believes that bamboo is a wonderful, multifaceted resource and a historical natural legacy. With the international organic standard Organic Bamboo Industries AG protects and monitors this treasure. For the sake of sustainable agriculture and the fair use of resources, Organic Bamboo Industries AG is also committed to the establishment of a futures market for bamboo raw materials such as stems, shoots and leaves. This would allow the industry to reliably procure various types. The forestry sector can then better assess the demand and produce raw materials in a targeted manner, reinforcing the sustainability of the overall system.

Organic Bamboo is a vision and a task: it stands for the protection of historic bamboo forests and guarantees uncompromising and comprehensive traceability in every production step – all the way back to the bamboo forest.

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