

# Bambusa vulgaris

## Feathery bamboo

*Bambusa vulgaris* Schrad. ex Wendl.

Family: Poaceae

**Description:** There are several genera of bamboos. Some grow in clumps, others are running bamboos. *B. vulgaris* is a clump bamboo with short rhizomes, stems to 50 ft tall by 4 inches diameter, leafy branches at nodes. Leaves pointed, up to 14 inches by 2 inches, rough beneath and at the margins. Sheaths not persistent. Large clusters of flowers at nodes. Edible shoots. Used by aboriginal peoples for construction, tools, and musical instruments. The golden bamboo (*B.v. var. aureo-variegata* Hort.) is a popular ornamental with green stripes on its yellow stems. *Bambusa*, from native common name; *vulgaris*, common<sup>(5, 59)</sup>.

**Distribution:** May have been introduced prior to 1800 from SE Asia. Commonly cultivated ornamental in Hawai'i in mesic to wet areas<sup>(59)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Does not spread aggressively but could be a problem in old home sites in forests.



**Management:** Difficult. Best to cut down and spray the regrowth. In forests and other non-cropland, imazapyr or glyphosate plus fluazifop are effective (J. DeFrank, Univ. Hawai'i). Livestock will graze shoots but cannot bring down large plants.