

BEDAZZLED BY BAMBOO

For those of you who believe that bamboo is just for Japanese gardens, I hope to change your mind today.

Bamboo is a wonderful natural material to have in your garden as each piece is different. Recently, I have created a bamboo fence with bamboo pieces one inch in diameter in between bamboo posts with a four inch diameter. Selecting the individual pieces of bamboo is a job in itself. Not all bamboo is perfectly straight or a solid colour which makes fence building more like an art form. Bamboo has an unusual textural and I love the fact that each piece is different.

Bamboo is considered to be a grass, not a tree and there are native species found on all continents except for Europe and Antartica. Bamboo is a surprisingly strong and weathers beautifully in colder climates like ours.

I have discovered pre-made bamboo screens where the bamboo pieces are almost touching; therefore one can have complete privacy in their garden without all the work. These screens are an effective way to hide things in your garden like rain barrels or a garage wall. You can also use these screens to cover up a chain link fence.

If you would like to create a more open look, the bamboo can be spaced further apart (one to one and a half feet) or grouped together in ones and twos. For decoration, tie the bamboo with a piece of string in an x shape around each piece. To allow the string to last through the winter, rub a wax candle soaked in water along the rope before tying them to the bamboo.

The vertical lines of the bamboo create repetitive upright elements suited for a small or large garden. The cost of bamboo is similar to that of natural cedar. For the right

location, it is a great investment for something unique in your garden.

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