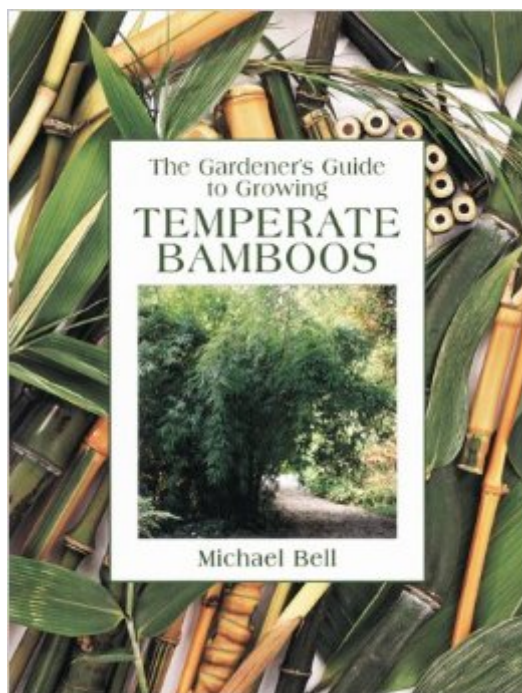


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# Temperate Bamboos (Gardener's Guide Series)



## Synopsis

A complete and practical guide to growing and collecting these architectural evergreen plants and using them to stunning effect in the garden.

## Book Information

Series: Gardener's Guide Series

Hardcover: 160 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,707,224 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Climate > Temperate](#) #507 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Ornamental Plants](#) #1305 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

If you've done a search, you already know how few books there are on the subject of growing bamboo in the temperate climates of the US, Britain and Europe, especially for the enthusiast gardener who is neither a potential farmer nor a botanist. This wonderful new book becomes the #1 choice for its good information, its passionate and readable style, its beautiful photographs, its lists of where to buy bamboo in the US (including mail order), and as the perfect gift for friends who may still have irrational concerns about and little knowledge of this magnificent plant. Bamboo lovers will enjoy every page. If you only buy one book on the subject, buy this one. If you can purchase two books, buy "Bamboos" by Recht as well. For design ideas, consider "A Japanese Touch for Your Garden." Start here, but be warned: once smitten with the beauty and elegance of bamboo, you may want to buy every book on the subject that you can get your hands on.

Finally, a book that covers all aspects of bamboo culture and does it extraordinarily well.

Everything from culture to propagation to garden placement. I found this to be a warmly written appreciation of this family of plants that have recently become so very popular. Bell gardens in

England but shows a keen appreciation of the differences in growing bamboo there and in the US. The book is generously illuminated with good color photos and line drawings. I've been growing bamboo for twenty years and found the book a joy.

Mike Bell has done the gardening world an enormous service with this book. It has been hard to find practical solid info on bamboos-perplexing nomenclature and tales of rampant invasive behaviour have left many cautious and perplexed. This work provides clear practical guidance and is beautifully illustrated. Useful for beginners and comprehensive enough to be an essential purchase for all enthusiasts.

I'm going to be completely honest here in my assessment of this book. I've been growing bamboo for many years and I once worked for one of the only bamboo nurseries in the USA with a quarantine license. I had hoped this book would have been more. I give Michael Bell some credit for his work, but overall I just was not happy with this book. There are a lot of topics in the book that seem RUSHED or that just aren't covered in depth which would have made this book really worthwhile. A good deal of the book is devoted to what he calls an A to Z of Bamboo plant descriptions, but I found this list to be grossly deficient. Some species have only a sentence or two, maybe a very small short paragraph, as a description! Some aren't even listed! Some of them aren't even very accurate or are very generalized and "RUSHED". Even more, the author is very biased towards certain species which seem to have clouded his judgement when reviewing others. Furthermore, some of the information in this book is just plainly false. Especially where potted plants are concerned, which isn't covered in much depth at all. The book has a very "RUSHED" little section on diseases/insects, which is disappointing with any plant or gardening book. Overall, the book has a "RUSHED" sense about it and in some areas is just plainly wrong or misleading (telling us certain plants don't do well in pots when they do, or that certain plants grow to this size when they are in fact taller, or that certain plants don't seed or flower when they do and have in recent years). It has some nice pictures but you should definitely purchase a more thorough book on the subject. I gave it 2 stars for effort. I'm sure glad I purchased a few other books to compliment this one. If I were relying on this book alone I'd be in trouble!

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