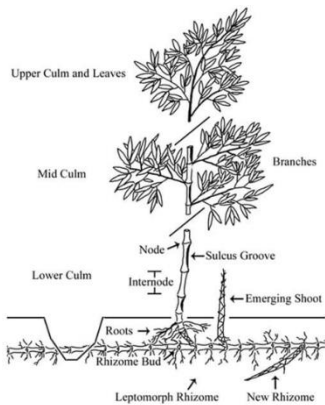


BAMBOO DISPOSAL GUIDE

Per the Township Bamboo Ordinance (Chapter 187), it has been determined that planting, cultivating, and growing bamboo has a negative impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the public at large and must be controlled. This fact sheet provides instructions on how to properly remove bamboo. For specific instructions on how to control bamboo, refer to Ordinance Chapter 187 or call the Municipal Building.

Understanding Bamboo:

Bamboo, a fast-growing large grass with wood-like attributes, will suffocate and shade out natural vegetation. It easily escapes confinement to nearby areas using an extensive network of underground stems (rhizomes) to grow new shoots and form new plants. These rhizomes can be transported in yard waste, by roadside plows, and other movements of dirt and soil. This trait makes bamboo extremely difficult to maintain.



Cut-away view of a culm with roots and nodes
Photo: Bamboo Botanicals

Reference: University of Maryland

Culms are upright stems, also known as canes.

Rhizomes are perennial stems that run horizontally underground and contribute to the spread of the colony; they grow roots and culms as they travel.

Nodes are the joints between sections of culm or rhizome and are the point from which leafy branches or roots emerge; in bamboo, the nodes are solid.

Internodes are any sections of culm or rhizome that are between nodes; in bamboo, internodes are hollow.

Sheaths are the papery protective covers on new emerging culms; they shed as the culms grow and add to the leafy litter mulching the ground at the plant's base.

Removing, Drying & Disposing of Bamboo:

The most effective method for bamboo removal is to cut off the canes* and dig out the entire root and rhizome mass as thoroughly as possible, including fragments. Once dug, lay the roots out or place them in a bin to dry. Bamboo does not like being bareroot and typically will take no more than a week to dry. Be sure to avoid any areas where the bamboo could obtain moisture.

Once dry, residents should contact the Municipal Building at 610-253-7191 to arrange root disposal.

**Bamboo canes have many practical uses, and without the root system, poses no threat to the Township. Canes could be used as garden stakes, decorative railings, trellises, shade screens, art projects, etc.*

