



Red Cloud Bamboo

## PLANTING GUIDE

*Bamboo is tough yet also very fragile*

We sell plants that have well developed root systems and have been watered several times per day to maintain the maximum size plant for the container size. They need to be kept very well watered before and after planting.

Once delivered on site and if not to be planted immediately it is preferable to place them standing in a shady location protected from wind and tied up to prevent from falling. Lying the plants down in the sun is very harmful.

The first sign of water stress is when the leaves roll up like a straw. If this happens it is crucial to water the plant as soon as possible and the leaves will unroll. It is important to note that the rootball will become hydrophobic once dry and shall need several frequent waterings to rewet. Sprinkling the foliage will aid recovery. There are several stages of dehydration; the first stage is leaf curl where a watering will unfurl the leaves and leave no damage. The next stage is leaf curl with damage and discolouring of a small percentage of leaf. And many stages with increasing damage. Damaged leaves do not repair themselves but they will fall and be replaced if the plant damage is not too high.

Wind is the strongest cause of plant dehydration even when it is 10 degree Celsius.

Water logging from poor drainage can kill bamboo. Heavy hard soils should be broken up to promote drainage and fast root development.

Heavy clay may need dolomite lime or Gypsum or compost worked into it. This improves structure of the clay and helps to keep it "open".

Sandy soils will benefit from adding some heavy soil and compost or soil conditioner. Soils with high humus content are always the best.

If the ground is very heavy and the site is flat, the soil should be mounded along the planting bed to improve drainage during wet periods.

After planting it is important to remember that it takes time for the roots to grow out into the surrounding soil, so this means the rootball needs the concentration of water. The roots are slow growing in Winter but extremely fast in Summer.

Contrary to the belief of many horticulturalists, we have no concerns with planting bamboo in Summer as long as they are kept adequately watered. In fact it is preferable as the plant will establish much quicker, hence the initial care is over sooner. Spring is the ultimate time for planting.

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