

## **BAMBOO IN THE LANDSCAPE submitted by Karlyn Bradshaw**

With over 1200 species of bamboo, it is easy to find one that will fit the needs of a Florida landscape. Tropical “clumping” bamboo can provide an extremely attractive focal point in a garden or create a privacy hedge in a very short period of time. It can also be a great container plant or wind barrier and is quite useful as a building or craft material. Clumping bamboo is Non-invasive and can be a ground cover or a giant of over 100 feet in height. Most clumping bamboo (approximately 155 species) have only been available in the U.S. during the past decade. This fact makes bamboo an exciting new element in landscape designs. Bamboo grows three times faster than most woody plants so it can fill your needs quickly and beautifully. Most bamboos like a sunny location, however certain varieties deal with shade better than others. Bamboo likes to be in well drained soil but can adapt to almost any soil conditions with just a little care. It even handles cold temperatures and in our area is very rarely in danger of freezing. It has a strong will to live and will fascinate the hobbyist and purist alike with its remarkable growth habits and unique colors and striping. The American Bamboo Society web site ([www.americanbamboo.org](http://www.americanbamboo.org)) is a great resource for any questions you may have regarding this beneficial environmental resource. For a local look at several varieties of landscape bamboo, please call Island Lawn Services at 548-0595 to schedule a visit. Island Lawn Services House of Bamboo is owned by Broadwater residents Kelly & Karlyn Bradshaw and is located at 6650 85<sup>th</sup> Ave. N in Pinellas Park.

