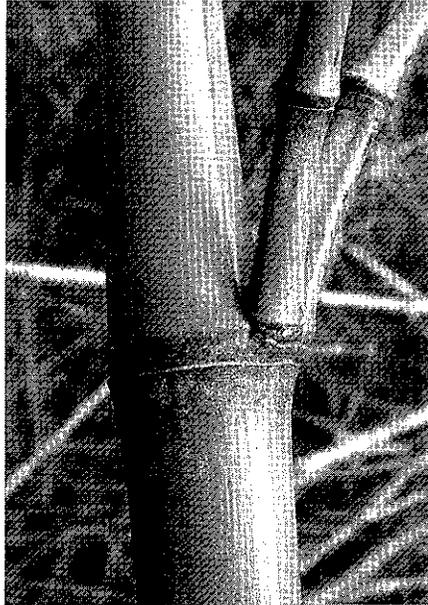


New Law on Bamboo in Connecticut

by Logan Senack, CT Invasive Plant Coordinator, UConn

Public Act 13-82, An Act Regulating the Planting and Sale of Running Bamboo, was passed by the Connecticut General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor earlier this year.



Golden Bamboo, Phyllostachys aurea
Photo by Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

The new law covers all bamboo in the genus *Phyllostachys*, a genus of large, running bamboo that spreads by underground rhizomes, and regulates how those bamboo species can be planted and sold. Species of *Phyllostachys* are sold as privacy screens or ornamental plants, but can grow quickly and spread rapidly

from an initial planting location to nearby areas by underground rhizomes.

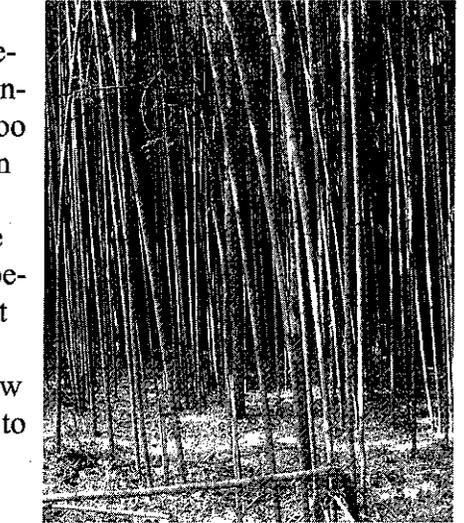
As of October 1, 2013, all new bamboo plantings (of any species covered by the law) that are planted within 100 feet of a property line or right-of-way **must be planted either above-ground in a container or planted with a properly constructed and maintained barrier system to ensure that the bamboo does not spread.**

The law specifically assigns liability to property owners who allow bamboo to spread to areas outside the boundaries of their property.

Because this component of the law would be settled via civil proceedings, its precise impact remains to be seen and each case may be unique. Nothing in the law limits the assignment of liability during civil proceedings for events occurring prior to October 1, 2013 or for situations not addressed by this law.

Public Act 13-82 also requires that retailers who sell or install running bamboo provide information to customers who purchase any of the covered bamboo species. The statement must include information about the law and advice on how to contain bamboo.

The Connecticut Invasive Plants Council (IPC) examined whether or not some species of bamboo should be listed as invasive plants under the state's invasive plant laws (see page 5). After investigating the issue and visiting various locations where bamboo was found in the state, the IPC determined that running bamboo did not meet the criteria for listing as an invasive plant. A major factor in the discussion was that bamboo appears to become established only in areas in the immediate vicinity of intentional plantings, and does not appear to establish in new locations on its own. However, recognizing that bamboo does pose a problem for homeowners who are impacted by the local spread of the plants, the IPC provided testimony in support of Public Act 13-82 when it was being considered by the Legislature. The testimony included the following statement:



Infestation, Golden Bamboo, Phyllostachys aurea
Photo by Nancy Fraley, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

“... although running bamboo may not meet the criteria for inclusion on the invasive plant list, the IPC acknowledges that it may grow aggressively and spread

from its point of origin, sometimes crossing property boundaries and establishing in abutting parcels.”

For additional resources relating to bamboo, including information on appropriate identification, control, and recommended containment measures, please visit www.cipwg.uconn.edu/bamboo.



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