

GIANT CANE

Arundinaria gigantea



This member of the grass family (Poaceae) is a vigorous, spreading evergreen bamboo and a woody perennial from hard, tough rhizomes, forming open to dense colonies. The slender stems are 3-25 ft. tall, at first unbranched, later branching and forming fanlike clusters. *Arundinaria gigantea* tends to occur along or in the floodplains of moving bodies of water such as streams or rivers. Smaller, more blue-green populations on lower, wetter sites of non-moving water like swamps are classified as *Arundinaria tecta*, (Walter) Muhl., and referred to as Switch cane, while much smaller (no more than one meter high) plants on drier upland sites are classified as *Arundinaria appalachiana*, Triplett, Weakley & L.G. Clark, and called Hill cane.