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A NOTE ON PLANTING BAMBOO SPECIES OF THE TEMPERATE ZONE INTO MALAYSIA

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In mid-1986, a temperate zone monopodial bamboo genus, *Phyllostachys* was introduced into Malaysia from the Bamboo Garden in Nanjing Forestry University, People's Republic of China. Species introduced were *P. glauca, P. nigrahexonis, P. pubescens,* and *P. viridis.*

The planting material was brought in as rhizome-offsets and planted in plastic containers for a year before transplanting in the field in Bukit Fraser and Genting Highlands, in the state of Pahang. 150 *g* of Christmas Island Rock Phosphate (CRIP) and 1.5 *kg* of organic fertilizer were applied in the 30 × 30 × 30 *cm* planting holes. Altogether, four clumps of *P. pubescens,* two clumps each of *P. glauca, P. nigrahexonis* and *P. viridis* were planted in Bukit Fraser. In Genting Highlands, two clumps each of *P. glauca* and *P. nigrahexonis* and one clump of *P. viridis* were planted. Both sites are 1000 *m* above sea level and their mean annual rainfall, relative humidity and temperature are identical at 2432 *mm,* 87% and 19°C. At Nanjing Forestry University where the bamboo originated, the temperature is much colder, with an annual mean temperature of 15°C, mean annual rainfall of 1038 *mm* and a relative humidity of 80%.

The growth rates of the bamboo species in Malaysia are as shown in Table 1. *P. glauca* grew best, producing an average number of 12 sprouts, with a mean height of 171.8 *cm* 24 months after transplanting. Although *P. nigrahexonis* and *P. viridis* produced seven to ten sprouts each, growth was slow and stunted. *P. pubescens* produced the lowest number of sprouts.

For comparison, the growth rates of local bamboo species that are on trial are shown in Table 2. At 24 months, the average number of sprouts for the local bamboos was similar to that of the temperate region. However, mean height growth by the local bamboos was generally superior, ranging from 175 - 450 *cm.* Only *P. glauca* of the temperate region showed good sprout production as well as height growth. At this early stage, therefore, this species appears good for cultivation in parts of Malaysia.

Table 1. Average number of sprouts and the mean height of *Phyllostachys* species at 24 months of age, propagated by rhizome-offsets in Bukit Fraser and Genting Highlands

Species	Number of plants	Survival (%)	Average number of sprouts/plant	Average height (*cm*)
Phyllostachys glauca	4	75	12	171.8
P. nigrahexonis	4	75	7	63.4
P. pubescens	4	75	4	70.6
P. viridus	3	100	10	68.6

Table 2. Average number of sprouts and mean height of local bamboo species at 24 months of age, propagated by rhizome-offsets in Mata Air Forest Reserve, Perlis

Species	Number of plants	Survival (%)	Average number of sprouts/plant	Average height (*cm*)
Bambusa blumeana	40	80	7	450.8
Gigantochloa ligulata	165	78	7	176.0
G. scortechinii	58	52	4	290.3
Schizostachyum zollingeri	48	75	12	175.2

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ERRATA

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