

Plant Profile

Dulichium arundinaceum

By Soni Forsman

Plant Name: *Dulichium arundinaceum*

Common Name: Dwarf water bamboo. It looks like bamboo, but is actually a sedge—sometimes called a Three-way Sedge. It is named for its leaf growth pattern. Thin, tapered leaves grow alternately around the stems, pointing outward in three different directions. This growth pattern is visible looking down on the plant. Even more interesting, the Three-way Sedge is not a true sedge as the stems are round rather than triangular but it is a member of the large sedge family, *Cyperaceae*.

Height: Up to 30 inches, potted 18-to-24 inches

Flowers: Flower are spikelets that grow from the leaf axils. This plant is grown for its bamboo-looking foliage, rather than its flowers.

Spread: Grows mainly from rhizomes, but can spread by seed. It is not invasive.

Sun: Full to part sun

Zones: It is reliably hardy in USDA Hardiness Zone 4. It will winter on a marginal shelf of a water garden—on the bottom or planted in a moist environment.

Type of Plant: Aquatic/bog

Growing Conditions: In water or consistently moist soil.

Short Description: Dwarf water bamboo makes a nice understory plant amongst taller marginal plants in the shallow water of a water garden or along the moist edges. I use it almost exclusively as a marginal plant in container water gardens—planted in one-gallon grower's pots. This plant need little maintenance during the growing season except a little fertilizer. It is pest free and is very versatile. It adapts to just about any size growing pot to fit in where needed.

About the Author

Soni Forsman, Eagan, Minnesota USA. She began water gardening in 1979 with one waterlily growing in a container. Now, there are many containers and an in-ground water garden.



*These plants exhibit favorable traits; however, plant growth is also dictated by climate, nutrients available and growing conditions. Care should always be taken to choose plants appropriate to the location. Know the law and never release plants into natural water bodies unless they are indigenous.