

Oxytenanthera abyssinica

Gramineae

Indigenous

- Common names:** Bond: lasi; Eng: lowland bamboo, wild bamboo, wine bamboo; Hehe: kitindi, mulanzi; Kinga: mlanzi; Lugu: mlanzi; Mako: mbunga; Mwera: mpunga, mwanzi; Nyam: mlanzi; Samb: lasi; Swah: mwanzi; Zigua: lazi.
- Ecology:** In continental Africa the lowland bamboo grows in Ethiopia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia as well as Tanzania. It is the most hardy of three African bamboo species growing on wooded hillsides, riverbanks and damp places, often on very poor soils. In Tanzania it is common in Iringa, Njombe, Lindi, Kisarawe and Mbeya, 500-1,600m.
- Uses:** Poles (building), drink (young shoots tapped), fodder (leaves), soil conservation, basketry (trays, etc.), dry fencing, boundary marker.
- Description:** A tall grass to 7 m or more in dense clumps arching over. Unusual in having solid stems, up to 10 cm in diameter at the base. **LEAVES:** Blue-green, base rounded, the tip long and spiny, usually 15 x 2.5 cm but up to 30 x 5 cm. Irritating dark brown hairs on the leaf sheath. **FLOWERS AND FRUIT:** spikelets narrowed, pointed, 2.5 cm in dense rounded clusters 6 cm across. Flowering takes place about every 7 years. The clumps die down but shoot up a year later from the rhizomes.
- Propagation:** Cuttings, rhizomes like sugarcane, suckers.
- Seed info.:** Seed is rare.
- treatment:**
- storage:**
- Management:** A fast-growing bamboo; needs thinning.
- Remarks:** Potential for agroforestry and for production of alcohol /wine. Like most bamboo, each plant flowers only once and then dies. Fences may be damaged by termites and borers but the plant survives fire in its natural habitat

