



# Monji Plant Profile

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## Heavenly Bamboo

*Nandina domestica*

03-67



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zone 3 (with some protection, 4-24, H1, H2)	Some shade in hottest climates	Does best in rich soil	Little to regular watering	Pinkish white or creamy blossoms	Slow to moderate growth 6-8 feet tall

Heavenly Bamboo, (*Nandina domestica*), is completely unrelated to Bamboo. It's common name comes only from it's resemblance to bamboo due to the fine lacy foliage, and the growth pattern of the plant, which is cane like. *Nandina* is classified as an evergreen, but will lose it's foliage if the temperature drops below 10 degrees F. The canes will die back to the ground at -10 degrees, but will come back readily the next spring.

What makes this plant special is the color it provides in the garden, during all four seasons of the year. In the spring, the new foliage emerges as bright bronzed red, and is soon followed by large, six to twelve inch panicles of creamy white flowers.

As the season changes, the foliage becomes blue green, fading to light green. Clusters of bright green berries replace the flowers. By late summer, the berries will ripen to a bright red.

In the fall, the foliage color again begins to change to shades of pink and red, ending the year with bright red leaves and berries. The berries will remain until they are discovered and enjoyed by the local birds.

Heavenly bamboo will slowly grow to 8 feet if it is left alone. However, it can be kept at a very compact size by pruning. This makes it an excellent choice for entryways, patios or foundation plantings. Multiple plantings may be used as a screen or hedge. It is also suitable for growing as a container plant, indoors.

The flowers of *Nandinas* attract bees, the berries will attract mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, and robins.