# Managing Bamboo in Residential Gardens: Key Considerations



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**Background:** Eight years after purchasing their home, a homeowner discovered two types of bamboo planted by previous owners in their garden. The bamboo, located near the conservatory and a shed office, has begun spreading, raising concerns about potential property damage and implications if they decide to sell their house.

**Types of Bamboo:** The homeowner suspects the presence of two different bamboo varieties. Expert Emily Grant from Environet identifies one as golden bamboo (Phyllostachys aurea), a running variety prone to spreading, and the other as likely arrow bamboo (Pseudosasa japonica), which though generally less vigorous, can still spread.

**Potential Issues:** According to the Royal Horticultural Society, bamboo is vigorous and fast-growing, with some types capable of invasive growth. If not managed, running bamboo can send out long lateral runners that cause extensive damage by dislodging patios, intruding into lawns, decking, and even structures. Encroachment into neighboring properties can lead to legal liabilities for private nuisance.

**Recommendations:**
- **Survey:** A professional bamboo survey, costing around £300, can assess the extent of the bamboo's spread and provide management recommendations.
- **Removal:** Excavation, the most effective removal method, costs approximately £3,500 plus VAT. Alternatives include containing bamboo with root barriers or replanting in strong pots.
- **Legal and Financial Implications:** Although disclosing bamboo presence is not legally required when selling, non-disclosure could be flagged in property surveys, potentially affecting saleability. Unchecked bamboo can depreciate property values similarly to invasive species like Japanese knotweed.

**Conclusion:** Homeowners are advised to consult invasive plant and bamboo removal experts to address the issue promptly to prevent structural damage and legal complications.