

History of Lucky Bamboo

Good Feng Shui.

In Chinese, Feng Shui is known as "Fu Gwey Zhu". Fu means Wealth, Riches; Gwey means Power, Honor; Zhu means Bamboo. It is not the same bamboo you find in the backyard or in nurseries. It is botanically known as *dracaena sanderana* and usually comes from tropical areas such as Asia. In the Asian culture, it symbolizes good fortune and is popular during the time of celebrations like New Years or during religious settings.

What is Feng Shui?

Feng Shui literally means "wind" and "water". Like wind and water, its principles involve movement, flow, circulation and the harmonious rhythm of natural energies. According to Chinese belief, a vital energy called "chi" animates all life. Chi flows through the earth, through the heavens and through our bodies. Chi that flows through the environments, homes, work places and communities can become blocked. Just as a flower garden can't thrive if it is overgrown, Feng Shui's intent is to balance and focus the chi in a particular environment and to correctly align it with the forces of nature. When our environments are in harmony with the universe, the "three great blessings", health, happiness and prosperity are achieved.

Does *Lucky Bamboo* grow roots and branches or spread out and take over the house or yard?

Lucky Bamboo is a stalk that will only grow a few inches and develops a very small system of roots and sprouts. It does not grow any branches or babies.

How did the stalk get curled?

Lucky Bamboo actually grows straight and not curly or wavy. Farmers lay them on a huge long table in the hothouse, covering 3 sides of the area in darkness, leaving one side exposed to bright light. By letting them grow naturally toward the light and manually rotating them periodically this allows them to form curls or waves. It takes an average of 1.5 years to make one curl. Can you do it yourself? Yes, you can make it curl when the stalk is fresh and young. The stalk is not going to grow longer, but will begin to curl as it responds to the direction of the light over a period of time.

Will they grow taller?

No, the stalks receive a special treatment when they have reached the shape and length desired. They will continue growing green leaves and remain green in either water or soil.

Easy Maintenance.

Lucky Bamboo grows in water like cut flowers, but will last for years. Place the bamboo in shallow water (about 1/2" to 2") in a container. For best results change the water every other week. They do not require much light or any fertilizer and any area of the room is fine. No need to transplant them in soil. *Lucky Bamboo* adapts to a new environment easily and is happy with low light to bright indirect sunlight. It prefers temperatures ranging from 45° to 90°F.

Creative Decoration

Lucky Bamboo remains green and beautiful alone or can accessorize any flower arrangement and look elegant. Be creative and arrange a bundle of "*Lucky Bamboo*" in different sizes or different heights to create layers and different looks. Make a dollar sign with two straight bamboo sticks and add one spiral curled stalk and place it in a special spot in your office or home. This will symbolize good luck!



Meaning of Lucky Bamboo Numbers

Ancient Chinese tradition teaches that the number of *Lucky Bamboo* stalks have different meanings and bring different beneficial factors into your life. The ingredients for a happy life are Happiness, Wealth and Longevity.

- **Three (3) stalks of *Lucky Bamboo*:**
Represent Fu (Happiness), Lu (Wealth) and Soh (Longevity)
- **Five (5) stalks of *Lucky Bamboo*:**
Represent the 5 different parts of life from which wealth emanates
- **Six (6) stalks of *Lucky Bamboo*:**
Six sounds like "Luck" in Chinese, representing prosperity and favorable conditions
- **Seven (7) stalks of *Lucky Bamboo*:**
Represents good health.
- **Eight (8) stalks of *Lucky Bamboo*:**
In the Chinese language eight sounds like "Fah" which means to grow and thrive
- **Ten (10) stalks of *Lucky Bamboo*:**
Complete and perfect
- **Twenty-one (21) stalks of *Lucky Bamboo*:**
Represents very powerful all-purpose blessings
- **Lucky Log**
The lucky log keeps sprouting new leaves, which means "strong life". In Taiwan, this is the popular gift to exchange between businesses. The giver of this gift wishes the recipients a strong life and prosperous business.