



# Approved Plants List

Plants approved for use as browse at  
Animals Asia's bear rescue centres  
– Vietnam and China



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# Approved Plants List

## Vietnam bear sanctuary



### **Acacia** – *Acacia mangium*

Availability: Throughout the year.

Bears like to eat acacia, especially younger leaves. Our sun bears prefer it as bedding material.



### **Bamboo** – *Dendrocalamus spec.*, *Bambusa spec.*, *Neohouzeaua spec.*

Availability: Almost all year (from January to February of lesser quality).

Bamboo is one of the bears' favourite browse – they eat most parts, including older leaves.



## **Banana**– *Musa balbisiana* / *Musa acuminata*

Availability: All year.

One of the most popular plants for browse. The bears eat all parts of it (including stems and trunks), therefore it's rarely used as bedding material.



## **Chinese fan palm** – *Livistona chinensis*

Availability: All year.

Palm leaves are given to our bears after being dried – this way they last longer. They love to play with it, and it's commonly used as bedding material.



## **Chinese white olive** – *Canarium album*

Availability: Spring and summer.

Our bears like this browse a lot, both for building nests and eating.



### **Jackfruit** – *Artocarpus heterophyllus*

Availability: Browse year-round, fruits spring/summer  
Given to the bears only very occasionally, due to restricted supplies. The fruit however is appreciated by the bears during season.



### **Lychee** – *Litchi chinensis*

Availability: Especially after fruiting season in summer.  
Almost all bears love lychee branches. They eat the leaves and love chewing on the branches.



### **Lemongrass** – *Cymbopogon citratus*

Availability: Spring and summer.  
Occasionally used as olfactory enrichment. Most bears don't eat it, but enjoy a thorough sniff.



### **Longan** – *Dimocarpus longan*

Availability: Year-round but best in spring/summer.  
Very similar characteristics to lychee.



### **Maize** – *Zea mays*

Availability: Stalks from late summer until winter.  
Bears love to chew on the stalks, but only relatively small amounts are given (can be toxic in large quantities).



### **Mealy kudzu** – *Pueraria montana*

Availability: Spring and summer.  
Due to restricted availability, this browse is rarely given, although the bears love to eat it.



### **Mulberry** – *Morus albus*

Availability: Spring and summer.

Unfortunately not available in large amounts – the bears love it.



### **Sugarcane** – *Saccharum spec.*

Availability: Stalks from late summer until winter.

Bears love to chew on the stalks but only relatively small amounts are given (can be toxic in large quantities).



### **Sweet potato** – *Ipomoea batatas*

Availability: All year.

The tubers are part of the normal bear diet. The vine is a favourite with all bears – even the sun bears, who are normally not so keen on browse, love it.



**Thatch grass** – *Imperata cylindrica*, *Hyparrhenia spec.*

Availability: All year.

This grass is used as a supplement when other browse becomes difficult to purchase. Not the bears' favourite, but still used as bedding material.



**Tiger grass** – *Thysanolaena maxima*

Availability: All year, grown around the centre.

This browse is ideal for the bears because they partially eat it and also use it to make nests.



**Tropical almond** – *Terminalia catappa*

Availability: Spring and summer.

Restricted availability (only when whole trees are chopped down). Bears generally don't eat it, but use it as bedding material.



**Pine** – *Pinus spec.*

Availability: All year.

Pine branches are occasionally used for enrichment (bears do like Christmas trees). Dry needles are regularly given as nesting material in outside enclosures.



**Red river gum** – *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

Availability: All year.

Some bears like to chew the branches of this aromatic browse. Mostly it is used for building nests. It can be toxic in large quantities.



# Approved Plants List

## China bear sanctuary



### **Paper mulberry** – *Broussonetia papyrifera*

Availability: May to November.

Very much enjoyed for eating when fresh, however in warm weather quickly becomes shriveled.



### **Cinnamon** – *Cinnamomum japonicum var.*

Availability: All year.

Supply not guaranteed.

Largely used for nesting and playing. Fragrant.



### **Banana** – *Musa balbisiana* / *Musa acuminata*

Availability: May to December.

One of the most popular plants for browse. The bears eat all parts of it (including stems and trunks). Dried leaves very good for nesting.



**Waxy-leaf privet (Small privet) – *Ligustrum quihoui* Carr.**

Availability: Supply stopped for 3 to 4 months during primary growth period.

Favoured for eating.



**Glossy Privet – *Ligustrum lucidum***

Availability: Supply stopped for 3 to 4 months during primary growth period.

Favoured for nesting and playing.



**Bamboo – *Dendrocalamus spec.*, *Bambusa spec.*, *Neohouzeaua spec.***

Availability: Supply stopped for 3 to 4 months during primary growth period.

Favoured for playing and nesting.



**Phoenix tree branches** – *Platanus acerifolia*  
(*Ait.*)Willd.

Availability: Not currently available.

Not liked for eating but for nesting and playing. Dried leaves also very good for nesting.



*Phoebe bournei*

Availability: Currently not used as endemic to China and threatened by habitat loss – IUCN-listed.



**Chinese lespedeza** – *Lespedeza cuneata*

Availability: Not currently available.



**Thatch grass** – *Hyparrhenia spec.*

Availability: Not currently available.



**Chaste tree** – *Vitex negundo*

Availability: Not currently available.



**Wormwood** – *Artemisia spp.*

Availability: Not currently available.