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Rare bamboo flowering event



Bamboo flowering. Credit: Toshihiro Yamada, Hiroshima University

Flowering for some plants is a yearly occurrence; for others, it is a once-in-a-lifetime event. A widespread species of bamboo in Japan, *Phyllostachys nigra* var. *henonis*, takes this one-time flowering event and pushes it to the extreme: they flower once every 120 years before dying to make way for the next generation. There is no recorded data since the last flowering of this species took place around 1908. It was found that more than 80% of the sampled culms flowered but all the flowering culms did not produce seeds, indicating this variation of *P. nigra* does not reliably undergo sexual regeneration via the germination of seeds. (Source: Toshihiro Yamada et al, PLOS ONE 2023).