**Nandina domestica** Thunb.
Berberidaceae/Barberry Family

**Common Name:** Heavenly bamboo, nandina  
**Synonymy:** None  
**Origin:** India to east Asia

**Botanical Description:** Evergreen glabrous shrub to 1.8 m (6 ft) tall, growing in multi-stemmed clumps and perennating by rhizomes. Leaves alternate, large, 2-3 times odd-pinnately compound, i.e., usually with 3 primary divisions from petiole, having a somewhat lacy appearance and turning red in cool season. Leaflets 2-6 cm (1-2 in) long, narrowly ovate to lanceolate, tips with long acute taper, upper surfaces dark green (in growing season), sublustrous. Inflorescence a large, erect, stalked panicle, to 30 cm (1 ft) tall, from uppermost leaf axil of season; panicle branches usually purplish-red. Flowers small, bisexual, with petaloid parts pinkish white and anthers yellow. Fruit a bright red, 2-seeded globose berry, 6-12 mm in diameter.


**Distribution:** Native to central China and Japan and west to India (Chongxi and Foster 1992). Introduced in the southeastern United States, with seedlings frequent near plantings and mature plants found far from areas of current cultivation (Whetstone et al. 1997). In Florida, herbarium specimens deposited from Escambia, Gadsden, and Leon counties (Wunderlin et al. 1995).
**Life History:** Can survive temperatures throughout Panhandle and peninsular Florida (Broschat and Meerow 1991). Grows in full sun to shade; propagated by division of clumps and by seed (Hunt 1977, Bailey and Bailey 1976). Seeds may take many months to germinate (M. Zeller, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1997 personal communication) or 2 seasons, and difficult to induce germination under artificial conditions (Roger Newton, Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service, 1998 personal communication). Flowers in late spring; fruits in fall and winter. Fruits dispersed by birds, including mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, and robins (Kellum 1997) and cardinals (B. McCurnin, Tallahassee, 1997 personal communication); may be dispersed by small mammals as well, such as opossums and raccoons (Ludlow 1995). Cultivars Nana, Harbour Dwarf, and Firepower do not produce seed in nursery environment (Steve Kent, Tree of Life Nursery, 1998 personal communication).