

Potting Bonsai Stock:

1. Remove the tree from the plastic pot by turning the pot upside down, tapping the bottom, and letting the tree slide out into your hand. The soil should not be too dry, so that the root ball remains intact. Gently scrape away the top soil around the base of the tree, exposing the lower trunk (ca. 1/4-1/2"). Do not break too many surface roots. Cut off the bottom third of the soil and roots, and flatten out the remaining root mass.
2. Prepare the Bonsai pot by placing a piece of screen over each drainage hole, and pour a layer of Bonsai soil into the bottom of the pot. Place the tree in the pot, pour in the remaining soil, and pack it firmly. Finally, submerge the Bonsai, pot and all, in water, up to the base of the trunk, and let it sit in the water for a few minutes.
3. Your Bonsai can be shaped by trimming the branches or by wiring them into new positions. Be sure not to wire so tightly that you cut into the bark, or so loosely that you do not have support.

Recommended Reading:

- Indoor Bonsai (Brooklyn Botanical Gardens)
- Bonsai: The Complete Guide (Paul Lesniewicz)
- Bonsai Techniques I & II (John Naka)
- The Complete Book of Bonsai (Harry Tomlinson)

Feel free to call us with any questions
about your trees

BONSAI CARE

including deciduous trees

Care

&

Nurturing

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Caring for your Bonsai: The Japanese art of Bonsai makes use of a wide variety of trees. Although the following guidelines cover basic care for most Bonsai, it is always helpful to do further reading on the particular species you will be growing.

Watering: Proper watering is the single most important factor in growing Bonsai successfully. Your tree should be checked daily to see if it needs water. Press down on the soil or moss near the base of the tree. If it feels cool and spongy, the tree does not require water. When the soil or moss begins to feel dry and a little hard, it is time to water. The most effective way to do this is to submerge the entire pot into a basin of water for a minute or two, or until the soil surface is saturated completely. Bonsai may also be watered with a watering can or hose nozzle as long as the soil is thoroughly drenched. It is essential that your Bonsai never become bone dry, although it must be allowed to dry a little between watering. Do not let your tree sit in water for extended periods.

Light & Ventilation: Bonsai need full sunlight and good ventilation. Most varieties require at least two hours of direct sun each day. Never place them in a poorly lit area.

Misting: Anytime your tree is inside, it should be misted frequently. In the summertime, even trees kept outside will benefit from a morning misting. Misting does not replace watering!

Fertilizing: Most Bonsai should be mildly fertilized once or twice a month throughout the year. You can use a Bonsai fertilizer, such as Pokon, at the recommended strength; or a houseplant fertilizer, such as "Peter's" or "Miracle Gro," at half the suggested strength. Always water before fertilizing. Do not fertilize freshly repotted trees, weak trees, or trees in cold winter storage.

Indoor Trees: Trees that fall into this category do not require a dormant period, and are the best trees for growing indoors year round, although they may be placed outside in the summer. A sunny windowsill is a good place to keep them. Fertilize more frequently during the growing season and less often during the winter months. The best time to repot is from late spring to early summer.

Bonsai in this group include Serissa, Bougainvillea, Figs, Fukein Tea, Olives, Jade, Sageretia, Natal Plum, Cherries, Jasmines, Palms, Gardenia, Brazilian Raintree, Jaboticaba, Podocarpus, Ilex-Shillings, Pomegranate, Texas Ebony, Okinawa Holly, Schefflera and Buttonwood.

Temperate Trees: These trees are native to areas that have mild winters. They require some coolness during the winter months. They will do best if grown outside for spring, summer, and fall. If grown indoors, they should have plenty of fresh air and full sun during the winter months. For the winter and fall, place them on a cool windowsill or in a cool room. An area where the temperature goes below 55 degrees at night is preferable. Any time they are inside, temperate trees enjoy frequent mistings and humidity trays to combat indoor dryness. Repotting is best done in the early spring. Temperate varieties include Juniper, Azalea, Boxwoods, Sawara Cypress, Tsukomo Cypress, Andelyensis Cypress, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha, Chinese Elms, Yews, Ilex Pagoda, Holly, Roses and most Herbs.

Deciduous Trees: These varieties are native to northern climates that have severe winters. During the warm months (May through October), they should be kept outside and only brought indoors for short periods (like a weekend) for display. Leave them outside late into the fall (down to 25

degrees). For the winter, the best location is a cold room or

unheated enclosed porch. The temperature should stay between 50 degrees and 20 degrees at night. However, trees that have been kept in a warm location at night should not be allowed to freeze.

Deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves) can be stored in a cold (below 35 degrees) cellar, an unheated garage, cold frame, or covered trench. On warm days, check to see if watering is needed.

Cold Weather & Deciduous Trees:

Deciduous trees can be wintered in darkness, but need as much light as possible when they leaf out.

Cold weather evergreens and deciduous trees should be repotted in early spring before the new growth has opened. Fertilize monthly from spring to fall. Varieties include Pines, Spruce, Hinoki and Blue Moss Cypress, Cryptomeria, Rhododendron, Andromeda, Hemlock, and Cedars. Among the deciduous trees are Maples, elms, Larch, Hornbeams, Beech, Birch, and Wisteria.

Insect Prevention: Misting your trees foliage with soapy water once or twice a month is good preventative against insect problems. Add a teaspoon of mild detergent (i.e. Ivory Liquid) to a quart of water. Mist your Bonsai with this solution, and rinse it off with clean water a few hours later. Try to avoid getting the soapy water into the soil.