

Temperate varieties include: Juniper, Boxwoods, Sawara Cypress, Tsukomo Cypress, Andelyensis Cypress, and Cotoneaster.

**A Note on the treatment of cold-weather Bonsai:**  
"Cold-Weather Bonsai" are varieties that need to get a full change of seasons to do well. These trees cannot be grown as year-round indoor Bonsai.

If you receive one of these varieties during the winter months, treat the tree as described in the 'temperate' section during the first winter. However, by mid-May, the tree really needs to go outside. Once outside, follow directions for 'Ideal Treatment of Junipers' from that point on.

Outdoor varieties include: Pines, Spruce, Hinoki and Blue Moss Cypress, Cryptomeria, Andromeda, Hemlock, and among the deciduous trees are Maples, Larch, Hornbeams, Beech, Birch, and Wisteria.

#### **RECOMMENDED READING**

- Indoor Bonsai (Brooklyn Botanical Gardens)
- Bonsai in Your Home (Paul Lesniewicz)
- Bonsai Techniques I and II (John Naka)
- The Complete Book of Bonsai (Harry Tomlinson)
- Ask Dr. Bonsai! (Michael Levin and David Babik, Bonsai West)
- Bonsai Today Magazine
- Indoor Bonsai (Paul Lesniewicz)

**Feel free to call us with any questions  
about your trees**

# **JUNIPERS**

*and other temperate  
varieties*

**Care**

**&**

**Nurturing**

Compliments of

**BONSAI GARDENS, INC.**



**Watering:** The Japanese water their Bonsais three times; once for the top, once for the middle, and once for the bottom

A simple way to accomplish the same objective is to submerge your Bonsai in a container of water one inch higher than the pottery that contains the tree. It will bubble as water saturates the soil. When bubbles stop, remove pottery and allow water to run out the bottom. **DO NOT PUT TREE BACK ON HUMIDITY TRAY UNTIL WATER HAS DRAINED.**

**Misting and Humidity:** One of the challenges of growing Juniper indoors is compensating for low humidity. There are two ways to do this:

**Mist the foliage** of your tree as often as possible with a spray bottle.

**Use a humidity tray.** A humidity tray can be any shallow tray filled with small stones. Keep a little water in the bottom of the tray. This will help create a humid environment for the plant. Make sure the water level does not reach the bonsai pot itself, as this can cause the roots to rot.

**Mist and humidity trays do not replace watering!**

Although Juniper are really Outdoor Bonsai varieties, it is not impossible to grow them indoors. The key to success lies in finding a good location and giving them a little extra attention.

**Placement: Summer:** in the warm weather, you should focus on giving your Bonsai as much direct sun and ventilation as possible. Keep it in an open window that receives at least 2 hours of direct sun a day.

**Winter:** during the colder months, Juniper need to feel the change of seasons. Situate them in the coolest spot you can find that still receives some direct sunlight.

**Ideal treatment for Junipers, Other temperate trees & outdoor varieties of Bonsai:** Junipers prefer to be outdoors from mid-May to mid-November. They will do best in a location that receives lots of direct sun. Remember that the more sun your tree receives, the more often it will need watering!

Junipers can stay out in the fall until temperatures start to dip below 25 degrees. **Under no circumstances should your Bonsai ever be subjected to temperatures below 20 degrees F!**

When it becomes too cold for your Bonsai to stay outdoors, move it to a protected area. Some wintering options include: a cold frame, garage, enclosed porch, or basement window. Your tree will still need sun if kept a 40 degrees F or above. In locations colder than this, light is not needed. Be careful to avoid temperatures below 20 degrees F. If you suspect that your winter location may go below that point, you may mulch your tree with pine needles or peat moss. A portable heater may also be used on cold nights.

**Try to avoid moving trees into the warm house and then back into the cold as this could seriously shock them!**

**Inspect your trees:** Junipers grown indoors should be monitored regularly for the possible presence of insects. Like many plants and trees, your tree should be visibly inspected for infestations. Shake the foliage of your tree over a piece of paper, and look to see if there are any specks moving around

on it. If you see white spots or other marks on your tree, take your tree to your garden center or florist for expert advice as to how to treat it. **DO NOT IGNORE IT!!**

It is a good idea to spray your bonsai at least once or twice a month with a non-toxic insect spray to prevent infestation. We recommend either "Schultz-Instant" houseplant and insect spray, or "Safer's" insecticidal soap. **Trees should not be sprayed in full sun or when the soil is dry.**

**Fertilizing:** Bonsai require regular fertilizing whenever they are active. This means that a tree kept inside all year should be fertilized year round, as it will never go dormant. Trees that are outside for the winter should be fertilized from April through September.

We recommend fertilizing at least once a month to keep your tree healthy. It is ok to feed Bonsai as often as once a week. A Bonsai food such as Pokon works well. You may also use a houseplant food like "Peter's," at half the recommended strength.

When applying food, mix your fertilizer with water, then submerge your Bonsai in the solution. Freshly potted trees should not be fed for 4-6 weeks. Fertilizer should also be withheld from Bonsai suffering from root damage due to drying out or overwatering.