

BONSAI



THE ART OF DWARFED POTTED TREES

The word "bonsai," pronounced "bone-sigh," literally translated means "tray planting." It appears in Japanese writings in the year 1310, even though the practice of growing such trees probably originated before the eleventh century in China, when it was called "penjing." Today when we use the term "bonsai" we mean "the ancient art of dwarfed, potted trees."

WATERING BONSAI

The easiest way to tell when your bonsai needs water is to stick your finger through the moss to the soil. If the soil is moist or cool to the touch, then do not water your bonsai. When the soil on top is neutral in terms of moisture, it will be slightly dry to the touch. It is time to water your bonsai. Depending on the amount of light and temperature your tree receives, this may mean watering your tree daily or every few days. Never allow the soil to dry out.

Watering should always be through the foliage, using a gentle spray such as a garden hose sprayer or sink sprayer. Spray the foliage and all around the top of the container until you see water dripping through the holes of the container. Remember, insects breathe through their skin so water is an excellent way to keep insects and dust off your tree. Insects are seldom attracted to healthy plants!

BONSAI LOVE FRESH AIR AND RAIN

WHERE TO KEEP BONSAI

Bonsai should be kept in a well-lighted area shaded from the direct sun. Some excellent locations include a covered patio or porch which has filtered sunlight, outside under a big, shade tree or in a specially designed nursery shade-house. Bonsai may be brought inside for short periods, three or four days, and then placed outside for an equal period of time.

Even though most bonsai can withstand temperatures down to freezing and colder, we recommend that they be brought inside during severely cold weather and kept in a room near a window without the drying effects of a heater. In northern climates a well-lighted garage or a room in the house that is not heated are acceptable locations for the severe winter months as this will force your tree to go into a dormant state.

Please remember that bonsai is not a house plant and needs a balanced diet of fresh air, natural light and water to remain healthy.

FERTILIZING BONSAI

Use a good bonsai fertilizer designed for Bonsai. Eve's Garden has designed BONSAI MASTER FERTILIZER for your bonsai. This is a mild 7-8-6 formula with everything you need to make your bonsai thrive. With BONSAI MASTER FERTILIZER mix according to the directions of the label and use it with each watering from March to October. **DO NOT OVER FERTILIZE!** Always follow the directions on the label of the fertilizer you are using!

PRUNING AND TRIMMING BONSAI

Pruning and trimming can be performed on your tree throughout the year. In the case of deciduous trees, such as maples and elms, pruning and trimming is best performed during the growing season. Juniper, pines, and cypress are finger-nipped throughout the growing season to keep the tree shaped. Trimming the under and inner growth is needed monthly.

REPOTTING BONSAI

Bonsai should be transplanted when the roots begin growing out the sides of the container. For most bonsai, this occurs approximately every one to two years here in Florida where we have a nine-month growing season. In northern climates, where you have a four-month growing season, repotting should be done every two to three years.

1. When spring arrives, pick a day that is overcast if you are repotting outdoors.
2. Carefully take the tree out of the container without disrupting the soil around the roots. The soil should be moderately dry. Tree placement in the container is important, so before removing the tree from the container, take a good look at where it is placed.
3. Untangle the roots from the soil-root-ball.
4. Remove approximately one-third of the soil from around the soil-root-ball. Be careful not to disrupt the soil around the trunk of the tree.
5. Carefully trim off the roots that are now exposed due to the soil removal with a pair of sharp scissors, leaving one-inch of the roots still extending beyond the soil-root-ball.
6. Using a good grade of potting soil mixture designed for Bonsai, place enough soil in the container so that when the tree is replaced within the container, the top surface of the soil is even with or slightly below the edge of the container.
7. Place the tree back into the container and locate it where it was prior to its removal.
8. Fill the sides of the container with the soil mixture packing the soil firmly into the container to ensure that there are no air pockets around the roots.
9. Water the soil to saturation. Always water after packing the soil, not before.
10. Keep the tree in shaded location through the spring and summer.
11. Continue to water the bonsai as you did before repotting.
12. A vitamin mixture called SuperThrive or a stronger dose of Bonsai Master fertilizer is recommended when repotting your tree.

BONSAI SUPPLIES

We carry a full selection of the supplies you will need as your tree grows and you begin shaping. Such items include clippers, training wire, soil, moss and fertilizer. Please visit our website for all your bonsai supplies.

Remember we are only a phone call or email away. If you are having a problem or just in need of information, please don't hesitate to contact us.



With thousands of trained bonsai specimens growing at all times, we are one of the largest bonsai nurseries in the world. All our plants are grown using water from a spring-fed lake and organic fertilizers and pesticides. All our trees are inspected and certified to be free of all plant diseases and pests by the United States Department of Agriculture.

BUSINESS HOURS

Weekdays: 9-5 Saturday: 10-4
Closed Sunday

Claims must be made within
three (3) days of receipt

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that all nursery stock is sold true to name as described within recognized trade tolerances. Eve's Garden, Inc. gives no other warranty, express or implied and will in no way be liable for more than the invoice at the time of purchase.



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