

BONSAI

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After a tree or shrub has been chosen, it is pruned and wired for shape and design. Before planting it is given a final pruning on top, and the roots are also trimmed at this time. Wires may also be removed at the time of planting, depending on the amount of growth and the type of tree or shrub that is to be planted. The BONSAI is then planted in a shallow dish or pot with proper drainage holes in the bottom. BONSAI prefer a bottom layer of soil that is quite sandy in nature. The top layer of soil should be good, clean earth, such as a good potting soil mixture. Then, if the few basic guidelines that are printed here are followed, your BONSAI should live for many years!

WATERING—Watering a BONSAI is very different and extremely important! Watering must happen from the bottom up. Place your BONSAI in a tray of water to a depth half way up the outside of the BONSAI dish. Let it soak until water appears on the top surface of the soil. Remember that conditions for watering vary with the degree of dryness or humidity, temperature, and the time of year. This rule should act only as a basic guideline, as you may find the need to water more or less as your conditions demand! BONSAI prefer humidity and a gentle, daily misting is good for them.

GROWING INSIDE—Growing a BONSAI indoors is difficult at best. They do not survive well in a house. They can however, be grown all year round in a greenhouse. Remember that BONSAI are almost always created from outside trees or shrubs.

GROWING OUTSIDE—Coastal regions or mild winter areas (zones where the winter temperature averages above 32°F/0°C), can safely keep their BONSAI outside all winter. Colder, interior regions (zones with a winter temperature average below 32°F/0°C), should carefully remove the BONSAI from its dish and plant it directly into the ground. This will prevent the plant or roots from freezing and your dish from freezing and possibly cracking! In the spring, once all

danger of frost has passed, you can replant your BONSAI.

SUMMER GROWING

Morning sun is alright, but try to avoid hot, afternoon sun. A shady, cool area is best in the afternoon. Remember to watch your watering and mist daily.

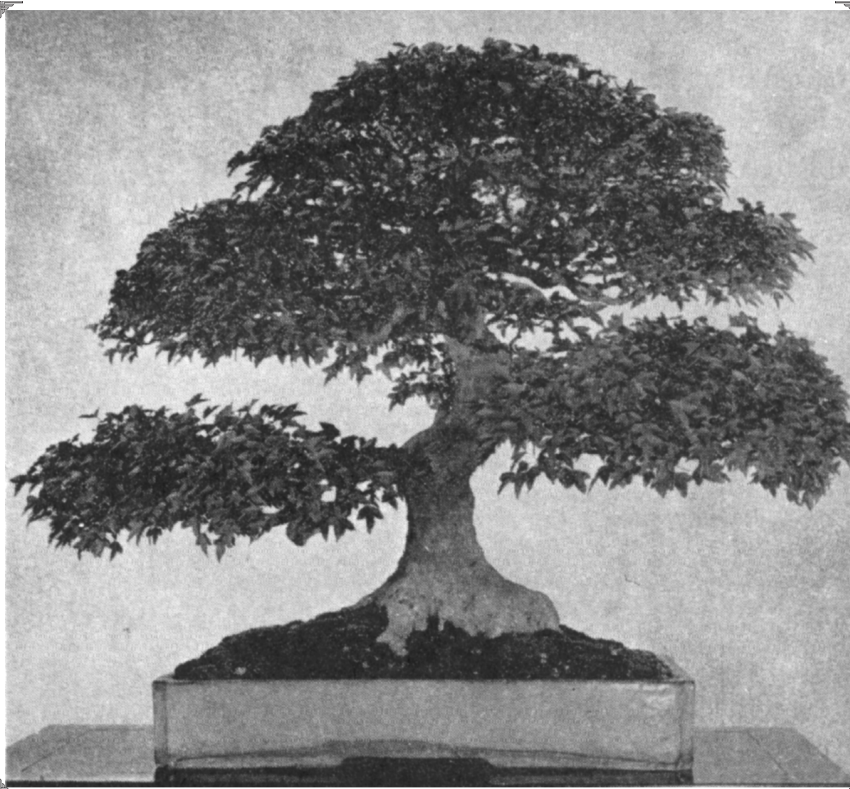
WINTER GROWING

Conditions in the winter are just the opposite. Some afternoon sun is fine, but morning sun is not. Snow cover will not harm a BONSAI, so extra protection is not required.

FERTILIZING—From April thru to September, feed your BONSAI with a weak dilution of water soluble plant fertilizer (i.e.: 20-20-20 in a mild solution.)

ROOT PRUNING—Further root pruning may be required after 3 to 5 years. This will depend on the type of tree or shrub, the amount of growth and the amount of top pruning and growth.

*By following these simple guidelines your BONSAI should live well and provide you with much happiness!





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