

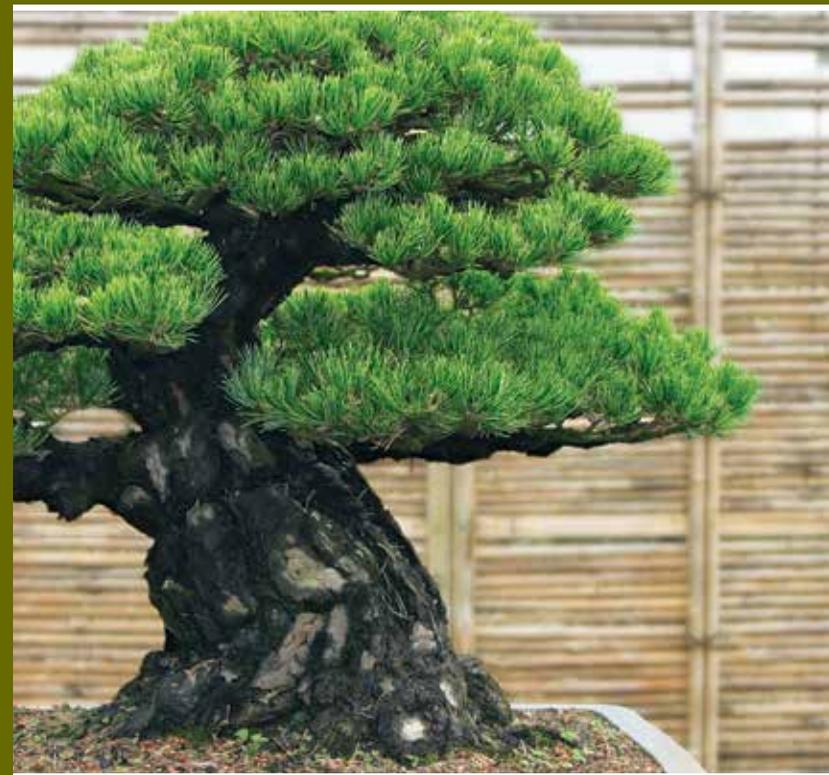


The word Bonsai means “Little Trees in Pots.” Contrary to popular belief, the art of bonsai originated in China and was later refined in Japan. The western world has adopted this art to their lifestyles. Bonsai has become extremely popular and is recognized as an international art form.

Your bonsai tree has been grown in a state-of-the-art greenhouse under precisely controlled conditions to achieve optimum health. Follow these care instructions to ensure success and years of enjoyment!



IMPORTANT:
NOT FIT FOR CONSUMPTION – Flowers and plants are not fit for consumption. Please keep them out of reach of children or animals.



Outdoor Bonsai Care

Outdoor Bonsai

Outdoor bonsai, those varieties that are winter hardy in cold climates, include evergreens like pines and junipers as well as deciduous trees such as maples and elms.

For best results, acclimate your new bonsai for the first week in a shady area. After that, move your tree to a spot that receives morning sun and mid to late afternoon shade. Patios, decks and balconies are great areas to display your bonsai during the growing season. Feel free to bring your outdoor bonsai indoors for short periods of time; five days or less. For longer periods, these trees need outdoor conditions to remain healthy.

Successful Watering

Careful watering is key to maintaining healthy bonsai! Outdoor bonsai benefits from daily watering in the spring, summer and fall while they are actively growing. Reduce watering to every few days during the winter. **Do not allow your bonsai's**

soil dry out completely. Best results are achieved by watering with a small watering can or hose attachment that has a fine-spray nozzle. **Thoroughly soak the container's soil** until water runs out of the bottom drainage holes. Additionally, periodic misting of the tree's foliage is recommended.



Bonsai trees also benefit from periodic trimming to maintain their miniature size and attractive shape. To learn about trimming and wiring techniques, we recommend purchasing an instructional book.

Repotting

Your bonsai needs to be repotted every four to five years because over time, as the root system grows, the tree becomes "pot bound." Repotting outdoor bonsai is best done before new growth appears, during late winter or early spring. Choose a potting soil specifically developed for bonsai as this will avoid compaction and related drainage problems. We recommend waiting at least one growing season before repotting your bonsai to ensure that it is well established.



Fertilizing

Your bonsai requires supplemental nutrients for long term health. Most water-soluble and time-released fertilizers work well when used as directed. We recommend slow release organic fertilizers for more mature specimen bonsai.

Insects & Diseases

Insects and diseases can attack any plant, including bonsai. Inspect your tree regularly for damage. Should problems appear, check with your local garden center for the appropriate treatment.

Periodically spray the trunk and foliage of your tree to keep your bonsai clean and dust-free.

Winter Care for Outdoor Bonsai

To remain healthy Outdoor bonsai trees need to experience seasonal changes including a period of dormancy triggered by winter cold. These trees do best when left outside during the winter with their roots protected from sharp temperature swings.

"Heel-in" your bonsai by covering the pot and soil with pine needles, bark mulch or soil when temperatures drop to freezing.

Site your tree on the south side of your house where sunshine often moderates bitter temperatures. In areas with long periods of below freezing weather bonsai trees may be protected by placing them in garages, sheds, cold frames or basements.

Contact a local bonsai club for specific regional advice.