

OUTDOOR BONSAI

Where to position my bonsai

Bonsai kept as outdoor bonsai should be placed in a sheltered spot if possible, free from strong winds and with some shade during the day. A bamboo or reed screen is ideal. Some species such as Japanese maples require protection from spring frosts which can damage the developing new growth. Wooden stands are best to raise the trees off the ground to avoid damage from animals etc.

Watering requirements

Your bonsai need regular daily watering in hot dry weather. The best time to water is in the evening, rain water is best although tap water can be used. A fine rose on the hose or watering can is best, ensure the soil is completely soaked. A morning watering if possible is also beneficial, but avoid getting the foliage wet if a hot day is forecast. You can also use the complete immerse method as in the indoor guide. In the winter your tree should receive enough water from the rain. If the tree is kept in a



Japanese white pine
Informal upright style

greenhouse it may require water every 2-3 weeks. Evergreens such as pines and junipers need water if they are still growing in late winter/ early spring.



bonsai styling

A multi trunk juniper bonsai styled from nursery stock. Try your hand at styling your own bonsai. Check out your garden centres, often you can pick up suitable material to work on.

Feeding your outdoor bonsai

Feed every 10-14 days with proprietary liquid bonsai fertilizer. Alternatively use slow release pellets or blocks such as rape seed cake or bio gold which will last 1-3 months.

MENDIP BONSAI STUDIO

Byways. Back Lane. Downside. Shepton Mallet.. Somerset BA4 4JR

Tel. 01749 344274
www.mendipbonsai.co.uk

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Bonsai growing guide For beginners By John Trott



**BYWAYS.
BACK LANE.
DOWNSIDE.
SHEPTON MALLET.
SOMERSET.BA4 4JR**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION CAREFULLY AS
THE BONSAI YOU HAVE JUST
PURCHASED IS A LIVING PLANT
AND WILL REQUIRE YOUR
ASSISTANCE TO STAY ALIVE

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INDOOR BONSAI

The care of your bonsai is very important to keep the tree in perfect health and harmony.

Where to keep my bonsai ?

The placement of the tree should be in a light position, but avoid direct sunlight which can scorch the leaves and speed up the water evaporation from the compost. Avoid draughts, so do not place near a window or door which can cause a sudden drop in temperature. Do not place your bonsai on top



Hinoki cypress
forest group planting.

of a source of heat, for example on top of shelf with a radiator underneath or on top of a electrical appliance. A steady temperature rather than one which fluctuates a lot is highly recommended.

Watering requirements

Your bonsai needs regular watering, it needs to be moist but not over wet. The best method is to completely immerse the pot in water so the water level is above the soil. Wait until all the air bubbles have stopped rising, then place the pot on a drip tray. What water drains off will evaporate and keep the foliage in a humid state. The warmer the room the more often you may need to water your bonsai. Test the surface of the compost, if it is moist wait a day or so then test again. It could be once a day or once a week! Do not let your bonsai dry out completely.

Feeding your bonsai

Water your bonsai before you feed to avoid root burn. You can use a proprietary bonsai fertilizer or one low in nitrogen such as baby bio. This will insure the growth is not too vigorous.

Feeding frequency

Feed once every 2 weeks from March to October, then only once a month.

If your bonsai starts to show a change of colour with leaves turning yellow do not be alarmed. This is normal if the tree has been in a draught, over-watered or change of temperature. The leaves will fall off only to be replaced by a new set of leaves 4 to 6 weeks later.

Remember when the leaves have fallen off the tree, it is not dead, but just temporary dormant.

Pruning your indoor/outdoor bonsai

It is important to regularly trim your bonsai to keep its shape or style. This is called the clip and grow method. When a new shoot has elongated, and has between 6 to 8 new leaves, it should be trimmed back to between 2 to 4 leaves. This may be every 2 months or so depending on the vigor of the tree. With regular pinching back the tree will fill out better. A pair of snips/scissors will do.

Wiring your indoor/outdoor bonsai

If you need to shape your tree other than by the clip and grow method, the alternative is by the



Chinese juniper. Informal upright style

wiring method. You can use anodized aluminium or copper wire which has been annealed. The wire comes in various sizes from 0.5 to 6.00 mm in diameter. The wire is wrapped around the trunk or branch then bent into the shape your styling requires.

Learn more about the art bonsai

Practical workshops

The mendip bonsai studio operate a range of practical workshops catering for the complete beginner up to experience bonsai enthusiasts.

These workshops are run through-out the year and are very popular with people as they are run at the week ends, but for those who prefer a week day you might like to consider a **one to one workshop**. You can bring your own trees or we can supply stock for you to work on at very reasonable and competitive prices. I can also **visit you** for a day workshop to advise and work on your trees also at a reasonable cost.

I **lecture** and conduct **demonstrations** for clubs and societies through-out the UK.

We stock a vast supply of bonsai, pots, bonsai sundries, etc. also a large selection of Japanese maples and pines for garden culture.

please note

Mendip bonsai studio is a private nursery and is not open to the general public other than by appointments only.

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john@mendipbonsai.co.uk