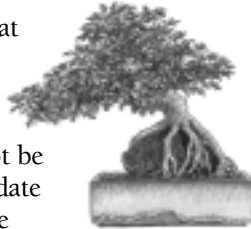


# Bonsai

**Tropical Bonsai** are plants that are not normally hardy to this region. They cannot withstand a frost. They can be put outside in the spring after the annual frost date, (plants should not be put outside before May 30th, our frost date varies) and must be brought back inside before the first frost.



Examples include: ficus, serissa, jasmine, gardenia, Chinese elm, Zelkova, and fukian tea to name a few. Junipers are the only temperate recommended for indoors, but must be maintained between 40°-50° in the winter time.

## Basic conditions include:

**LIGHT** – bright indirect light: 6-8 hours per day, or direct morning sun till 12:00 or 1:00  
artificial light: 12-16 hours per day, placed 12" under lights.

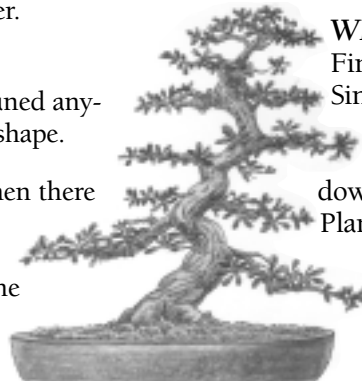
**HUMIDITY** – Use a humidity tray or set the bonsai on a tray of pebbles and fill the tray with water. Make sure tray is at least 2-4" larger on all sides than the bonsai pot, and that the bottom of the pot does not sit in the water. The humidity tray maintains humidity 24 hours a day. Keeping your bonsai misted every day or two will also give it extra humidity. If misting is done, make sure it is done in the morning to avoid fungus problems. Avoid placing bonsai near heat or air conditioning vents.

**WATERING** – Soak pot just below the lip approximately every 2-3 days. Allow to soak for 5-10 minutes. If soil is mounded, it should be moistened from the top gently, in addition to the soaking.

**FERTILIZER** – Non-flowering: 20-20-20 every 2 weeks in spring and summer. Once a month fall and winter.  
Flowering: 10-50-10 or 15-30-15 once a week spring and summer. Every 2-3 weeks fall and winter.  
*Never fertilize a dry bonsai.*

**PRUNING** – Tropical bonsai can be pruned anytime of the year to maintain a nice full shape.

**ROOT PRUNING** – Every 2-4 years when there is a lot of roots showing. Can be done anytime of year. After trimming the roots, the plant should be returned to the same pot.



## OUTSIDE SUMMER CARE:

**LIGHT** - morning sun or filtered light, (NO afternoon sun)  
**WATERING** - plants need to be checked everyday or several times a day, depending upon temperature. They can dry out fast. *Remember: one under-watering or one over-watering can damage the root system permanently.*

**Temperate Bonsai** are plants that require a change of seasons. They should not be grown inside since they need a cold dormancy period in order to gain strength for spring and summer growth.

The most common plants used are those that are traditional outside plants such as evergreens, conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs. Almost any type of temperate plant can be made into a bonsai as long as it produces a good amount of woody growth and can withstand a lot of pruning.

## SPRING & SUMMER OUTSIDE CARE:

**LIGHT** – filtered or morning sun, no hot afternoon sun.

**WATERING** – should be done daily. In very warm weather it may require several times a daily.

**FERTILIZER** – only in spring & summer.

**Evergreens** – miracid every 2-3 weeks.

**Deciduous Flowering** – Blossom booster or miracle-gro every 2-3 week

**Deciduous Non-Flowering** – 20-20-20 every 2-3 weeks.

**PRUNING** – in spring or early summer during active growth.

**ROOT PRUNING** – on average every 3-4 years, only in spring or early summer. After trimming the roots, the plant should be returned to the same pot.

## WINTER CARE:

Find a well sheltered location that receives good light. Sink the pot below ground level and mulch over. This should be done by the first two weeks of October. Provide protection such as an upside down milk crate. This protects from ice and snow. Plant will need occasional water if there is not snow or rain. Do not remove the plant from this location until the frost date has passed.

