

BONSAI SECRETS

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www.nykonnet.com/Bonsai/bonsaitree.html

Introduction

The art of bonsai has been around for years. Its culture is deeply rooted in the Asian culture and it adds not only a touch of class to your garden and home, but it also can provide a beautifully sedate focus for relaxation and meditation – right in your own home!

The Japanese believe in simplicity when it comes to aesthetics. What could be more beautiful than a simply crafted tiny version of a normal sized tree? An old Chinese proverb says

“The Man Who Removes A Mountain Begins By Removing A Few Small Stones.”

This is the art of bonsai. You take a tree that is meant to grow many feet tall and allowing it only to grow a foot or two.

Bonsai Secrets

Growing and sculpting bonsai trees can be quite a satisfying hobby. It is a hobby; however, that requires a tremendous amount of patience. When you take a simple sapling and mold it to your desire, you'll be rewarded with a beautiful piece of art you can truly be proud of!

To the Japanese, there is a link to many of the ideals that their society is based on. Zen Buddhism - where the pastime originated, man, nature, elements and change all are intertwined into this unique method of meditation and expression. To our world now, bonsai is viewed as a hobby that allows a greater understanding and being with nature and also a way to enhance our gardens.

In this book, we will introduce you to bonsai techniques and how to grow your own bonsai masterpieces. The beauty of bonsai is that there is no definitive "right way" to do it. We can offer up tips and tricks to craft your own bonsai, but how. Enter into the world of bonsai and gain a new insight into life!

Bonsai Secrets

The evolution of bonsai over the past two centuries is truly amazing. Perhaps it is symbolic of how small the world is getting as people from Europe to the United States and even in Greenland are exploring bonsai as a hobby.

In the e-book „**Bonsai Trees: Growing, Trimming, Sculpting And Pruning**” you will find much more about the history of bonsai.

Details at: www.nykonnet.com/Bonsai/bonsaitree.html

And now it's your turn! First, let's explore styles of bonsai.

Bonsai Styles

It is important for you to remember, as a beginner, that no single bonsai style is the “right” style. Bonsai is meant to be a representation of a tree in nature. Crafting a bonsai masterpiece is tantamount to how YOU view that tree. You are not learning from a bonsai master, you are simply being given instruction on how to create your own bonsai. What you make of it lies simply in your own mind.

There are two general styles of bonsai: the classic (koten) and the informal or 'comic' (bunjin). In the former, the trunk of the tree is wider at the base and tapers off towards the top; it is just the opposite in the 'bunjin', a style more difficult to master.

When you start a bonsai, always remember that you are working with a living plant. Look carefully at its natural characteristics and you may discern within them a suitable style, or styles.

Bonsai Secrets

The five basic bonsai styles are:

- formal upright,
- informal upright,
- slanting (or windswept),
- semi-cascade
- and cascade.

All have their own individual beauty and serenity.

If you want to know more about each bonsai style and how to create them visit www.nykonnet.com/Bonsai/bonsaitree.html

Growing a Bonsai Indoor or Outdoor?

One school of thought is that trees are outdoor plants and putting them into pots does not transform them into indoor plants. Many believe that if you bring bonsai inside, they will die. While not necessarily true, you will probably see much better results if you let your bonsai flourish outside rather than indoors.

Just remember that you are going to be growing and cultivating a tree in a tray or pot. Trees need lots of sunlight and care to grow. Just because the trees are in a tray or pot instead of the ground doesn't mean they don't need the same care.

It is far more difficult to cultivate indoor Bonsai than outdoor Bonsai. Outdoor species very rarely die immediately when grown inside, they can survive for months. However they slowly lose their health and vigor in the adverse conditions they have to cope with, and

Bonsai Secrets

become susceptible to bugs and disease until they finally start to show outward signs of ill-health; yellowing leaves, lose of foliage and eventually death.

Alright, then, how do you start your own bonsai masterpiece?
Let's first consider the tools you'll need.

Tool Box For Bonsai Tree

Bonsai requires very few tools. Tools, however, make certain jobs or tasks easier and quicker. Tools can range from a few dollars to a few hundred dollars. As with most things, you get what you pay for.

The range of quality (and price) in tools is immense and it is suggested that you buy the best *basic* set of tools that you can afford. You will come to appreciate them with time, and, if you care for them, they will last you a long, long time.

There are three tools that are essential to even beginning the process of shaping a tree for bonsai. Which are the tools? You will find it in the e-book „**Bonsai Trees: Growing, Trimming, Sculpting And Pruning**”.

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Grow From Seeds or Buy Trees?

You can start your bonsai from seed, but be warned, it can take awhile to see your results. Unless you're starting your bonsai hobby at age 4, being able to see the fruits of your labor will probably not come to reality.

While it may be nice to be able to have complete control over your bonsai from the beginning, we have to advise against it.

Trees used in bonsai aren't special in any way. They are exactly the same as the trees you see all around you every day. So, essentially, don't plant your bonsai from seed.

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