

PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY

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On the cover is our Club Logo, a 1993 rendering by grandmaster John Y. Naka of a tree that had been designed by our teacher Leroy Fujii.

The Phoenix Bonsai Society's internet website address is
<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>
<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/mobile.html>

On the website you will read about the growing and care of dwarf potted trees specifically in a desert environment, plus the most comprehensive history of this international gardening art ever compiled.

BOARD MEMBERS 2014 – 2015

President	Frank Harris
Vice-President	Carol Roberts
Treasurer	Susie Kingston
Librarian	Kathleen Mosher
Event Chair	Val Engermann
Education Committee	Elsie Andrade
Raffle Chair	Barbara Gray
Webmasters	Robert Baran, Eric Zimmet
Valley Garden Center	Alex Gray
Club Liaison	

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Paul Matsusaki †	Alice Feffer †
Margaret Julian †	Edna Matsusaki †
Chet Hutchinson ?	Joan McCarter
Leroy Fujii †	Edward Jacobson †
Harry Roark †	Mary Bretlinger †
Bill Jamieson	David Wright †
Elsie Andrade	

† Deceased

The Phoenix Bonsai Society was organized in 1962.

The club's objectives are:

- to study, foster and encourage the enjoyment of the art of Bonsai;
- to assemble and make available information on the culture of Bonsai;
- to promote the collection and exhibition of Bonsai;
- to acquaint Bonsai fanciers with each other.

Our club history is told in *Designing Dwarfs in the Desert* (1997).

One of the first twenty-five clubs formed outside of Asia, we proudly have membership in the *American Bonsai Society*, *Bonsai Clubs International*, and *Golden State Bonsai Federation*

SOME THINGS WE LEARNED FROM LEROY

"Learn from your trees: they are a reflection of you."

First you must know the rules -- the underlying principles of your art -- and then you can break the rules.

When you go to a show or demonstration, don't try to learn a lot of new things. Just learn one new thing each time.

Then come back and apply that until you know it well.

If you're trying to make a cascade with a branch that has been growing more upright, you can help it by tipping the container on its side for a while so that nutrients flow more easily to the tip of the cascade-branch-to-be.

If you have several cascades in your collection, consciously try to redesign one or more so that they curve in a different direction: we inadvertently tend to develop trees in a particular individual pattern which can be related to which type of handedness we have.

The three most important things are: material, material, material. It's a lot easier if you start with something of interest that draws your eye in, a tree with good rootage, thick trunk, quality rather than spending a lot of time trying to develop poor material, leggy, spindly, with weak or clumped roots.

Develop the existing material rather than attempt to bend branches to get movement.

When you see a bonsai, you should always look closely at how it was developed, how it was created. Try to figure out what the artist was trying to convey.

First, keep the tree alive. Second, cut it back often.

Keep your tools in good repair. Clean them and respect them.

A good master is not doing his job if he's not learning from his students.

The greatest compliment a master can receive is when his trees cannot be told apart from those of some of his students.

-- Leroy Fujii (1925 – 1998)

CLUB SENSEI

1962-1970	Paul Matsusaki
1970-1998	Leroy Fujii
1962-2004	John Naka (honorary)
1998-2013	Ben Oki (honorary)
2013-present	David Nguy (honorary)

CLUB PRESIDENTS

2013-present	Frank Harris		
2011-2013	Jim McEown	2009-2011	Jamie Sims
2007-2009	Ken Roberts	2005-2007	Marcia Colliat
2003-2005	Mike Apostolos	2001-2003	Jim Claycomb
1999-2001	Ernest Hasan	1997-1999	Robert Gustafson
1995-1997	Robert Baran	1995	David Mason
1993-1995	Douglas Acker	1991-1993	Max Miller
1989-1991	Penny Schneck	1987-1989	Tom Nangle
1985-1987	Bill Mooney	1983-1985	Elsie Andrade
1981-1983	John B. Finkey	1980-1981	Tom Fleming
1979-1980	Frank Harris	1977-1979	John B. Finkey
1975-1977	Robert C. Dendinger	1973-1975	Louis H. Knaak
1971-1973	LaMont Potter	1970-1971	Atherton Bowen
1968-1970	Harry Roark	1966-1968	Paul Matsusaki
1964-1966	Bill Jamieson	1963-1964	Chet Hutchinson

MEMBERSHIP

Dues: Single \$30, Couple \$40
Family \$50 for three + \$10 each additional member

Membership is for one year. It is requested that all members pay in September. Spring joiners will pay pro-rated dues.

Benefits include a copy of the latest year-book; a subscription to our quarterly newsletter; three meetings/workshops per month September through May; accessibility to our club library and that of the Valley Garden Center; first spaces in our Master Workshop; participation in Matsuri and other shows, our spring trip to Los Angeles, summer get-togethers, digs and other events; sharing the experiences and interests of the various other club members; and occasional visits from out-of-town enthusiasts.

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Sensei David Nguy working on a demo tree with Frank Harris, Jim McEown, and Ken Roberts observing

The **PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY** (PBS) was founded in the fall of 1962 and is one of the oldest bonsai societies in the US. PBS is one of the first twenty-five Bonsai Societies to be formed outside of Asia. Two of the original founding members, Joan (Hozy) McCarter and Elsie Andrade, are still active and continue to provide leadership. The Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization and strives to help all members learn about the art of bonsai and to gain skills. As a member of PBS, you will receive assistance and support from others. At the club meetings, you will be able to receive instruction and direction from our talented mentors, and your skills will grow as you continue to learn more about the art of Bonsai.

The Phoenix Bonsai Society is an Affiliate member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation. The Golden State Bonsai Federation is comprised of many California clubs and a number of non-California clubs. As an Affiliate member, we receive many benefits and various levels of support and educational opportunities.

OTHER ARIZONA BONSAI CLUBS

SCOTTSDALE BONSAI SOCIETY activities are held on the **FIRST** Saturday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Via Linda Senior Center, Room 8, 10440 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale, AZ 85259, and on the **THIRD** Saturday of the month (except in June, July, & August) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Granite Reef Senior Center, Room 10, 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd. (cross streets are McDowell and Granite Reef), Scottsdale, AZ 85285. Contact Araxi Hovhannessian 480-298-8448, araxi@aol.com.

TUCSON BONSAI SOCIETY meets at 12:45 p.m. on the Third Sunday of the month at the Catalina United Methodist Church, 2700 East Speedway, in Building H, Room H230. Contact Ray Noseck at 520-760-0128, or Greg Baumgartner at 520-661-4746 or 520-762-1572.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA BONSAI ENTHUSIASTS (SABE, 2001) is a study group which generally meets on the **SECOND** Saturday of each month, 10 AM at the Desert Gardens Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 10851 E. Old Spanish Trail (cross streets S Avenida Los Reyes and E Old Spanish Trail), Tucson, AZ 85748. For information contact: Doris Cavanaugh at 520-290-0522, doris_c6@q.com or Loveda Petrie, 520-886-2446, veda27@earthlink.net.

PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY MENTORS



Else Andrade



Joan (Hozy) McCarter



Penny Schneck



Robert Gustafson

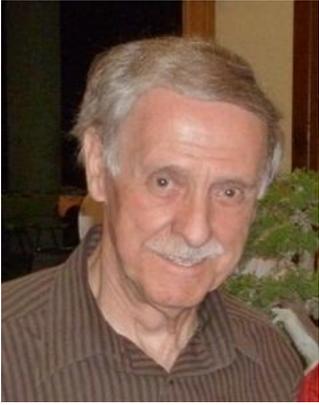


Frank Harris



Jamie Sims

PHOENIX BONSAI SOCIETY MENTORS



Alex Gray



Jim McEown



Ken Roberts



Ernie Hasan

CALENDAR 2014--2015

The First Tuesday meeting of each month we will have a brief business meeting followed by a Critique of Trees. The Critique of Trees provides an opportunity to have young trees, trees under development, and trees needing help to receive comment by the Mentors and fellow members.

The Second Tuesday will typically have a demonstration or lecture presented by a Mentor, member, or guest focusing on the monthly topic.

The Third Tuesday typically will be a general workshop. This would be a great time to bring in trees that you are working on or need some assistance with and there will be mentors at this meeting to assist you.

All Tuesday meetings start at 7:30 PM.

September 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER 2014 Topic: Literati (Bunjin)

- 2 NEW CLUB YEAR BEGINS: Critique of Trees, Club Business
- 9 Lecture on literati style of trees by Mike Fritz
- 16 Open workshop

OCTOBER 2014 Topic: Fertilizer, Soils, and Pest Control

- 7 Critique of Trees
- 14 Lecture on fertilizer, soils, and pest control by Jim McEown
- 21 Fall Junk Sale and open workshop
- 30 Golden State Bonsai Federation convention starts in Sacramento, CA

November 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER 2014 Topic: Yamadori (field collected trees)

- 4 Demonstration and display of yamadori trees
- 11 Lecture on yamadori by Frank Harris
- 15-16 Workshop with Sensei David Nguy; location to be announced
- 18 Fall Auction of trees, pots, and tools

DECEMBER 2014 Topic: Repotting

- 2 Critique of Trees, Club Business
- 6-7 Yamadori collecting trip to Tucson
- 9 Lecture on repotting your trees by Araxi Hovhannessian
- 16 Holiday Party (location to be announced)

January 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

JANUARY 2015 Topic: Accent Plants and Ikebana

- 6 Club Business, display of Accent Plants and kusamono
- 13 Lecture/demo by Barbara Gray on accent plants and ikebana with guest speaker Ping Wei of the Ikebana Society
- 20 Open workshop

FEBRUARY 2015 Topic: Air Layering and Grafting

- 3 Critique of Trees, Club Business
- 10 Demonstration on air layering and grafting by Frank Harris and Val Engermann
- 17 Open workshop and raffle
- 21-22 Matsuri, the club's largest event at Heritage Square, downtown Phoenix

March 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MARCH 2015**Topic: Suiseki (viewing stones)**

- 3 Club Business , display and talk on Suiseki by Elsie Andrade
 10 Workshop on making a dai (wooden stand) for your viewing stone by Frank Harris and Val Engermann
 17 Open workshop and raffle
 26-31 LA trip with visits to selected bonsai nurseries in the LA area and attending a reception and exhibition with the California Bonsai Society at the Huntington Botanical Gardens

APRIL 2015 Topic: Home Display of Trees and Their Environment

- 7 Critique of Trees, Club Business
 14 Lecture on home display of your trees and ideal growing environments by Alex Gray
 21 Spring Junk Sale and open workshop

May 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2015**Topic: Tree Assessment and Appreciation**

- 2-3 Phoenix Bonsai Society's fourth annual Bonsai Show at the VGC
 5 Critique of Trees, Club Business.
 12 Lecture on tree assessment and appreciation by Frank Harris and Jim McEown
 19 End of Year dinner and Club Auction of trees and pots

Please see our web site for an updated and more detailed version of this calendar.

WHAT ARE BONSAI?

Bonsai are artistically trained healthy and dwarfed trees or other woody perennials growing in relatively shallow containers. (Pronounced as “bone-sigh,” the term literally means “tree in a tray.”) Living outdoors and requiring their caretakers to provide them with water, nutrients and protection when needed, these never-finished “slow sculptures” resemble full-grown specimens that have been shaped by the elements over the course of many years. They can remind us of our relationship to nature and help us appreciate the giants in our yards, neighborhoods, deserts, and forests.

Most likely originating in China two thousand years ago with input from India, this gardening art was greatly influenced by the Japanese before being introduced to the rest of the world within the past century and a half. Our interest in this is shared by others either on their own or associated with more than thirteen hundred clubs in over a hundred countries and territories.

Confining the root ball of the tree in an aesthetically designed and complementary container with bottom drainage holes limits to some extent how vigorously the plant will grow. The pinching of buds, pruning and wiring of branches and trunk is done to shape and direct growth, keeping the top in balance with the roots. Enough water, fertilizer, sunlight, and fresh air are given to maintain good health but not promote excessive growth.

A number of recognized styles can be used, depending on the type of tree: formal upright, informal upright, cascade, windswept, broom-shape, root over rock, weeping, and literati/abstract are some of the most common styles. The composition can have one or more trees and, ideally, can lead one’s imagination and memory to travel through a magical miniature landscape.

Unlike bonsai, Saikei involves creating miniature landscapes in varying sizes with emphasis on proportion and landscape features. Multiple or single trees are used in conjunction with choices of rocks, grasses, or water to simulate a landscape view (Small porcelain figures of people, animals, buildings, or the like are less commonly added to provide visual scale and theme.) The trees used in these plantings can be younger and less developed than those trees displayed individually.

Untrained or partly trained nursery container stock is the principle source of material that we use in the Phoenix area. Other important sources are landscape-dug specimens, branch or root cuttings, and air layering. Starting from seeds or grafting is much less reliable/successful here.

We share this hobby/art for the camaraderie, the knowledge, the challenge (this is the northern Sonoran desert, after all!), the creativity and recreation.

LEROY'S CARE SCHEDULE

Potting and repotting should be done when the dew point is at least 30°F to avoid undue drying out of roots. You can do repotting the day after a heavy rain. Repot desert plants during the humid monsoon season. Clean and oil your tools after every pruning session.

When heavy root pruning is involved (still no more than 50% at a time), it is best not to over-do top pruning except during strong growing periods of March-April and October. Heavy root pruning and foliage trimming together can often be too much for plants in this area. When transplanting never remove more than 1/3 of roots or 1/3 of top growth at one time.

Fertilizing may go on throughout the year, except for the brief dormant periods in mid-summer and winter. Always remember that it is better to dilute fertilizer and use it more frequently, rather than to use strong mixtures all at once. The heat of summer can make some fertilizers act more quickly; burning is likely to occur and serious tree damage may result. Fish emulsion is frequently used here.

Wiring may be done at any time; however, small branches may die if wired in summer. Keep a close watch during the strong growing periods to avoid overgrowth that will lead to marks being made by tightly placed wire. If you wire in the summer, some members recommend wrapping the branch with raffia. Other members routinely wire during the summer without precautions and have no problems.

Wiring and pruning of trees being prepared for the Matsuri Festival in late February should be done in November, prior to the dormant period of December and January. With the advent of new growth in late January and early February, trees should be shaped well by festival time with only a nominal bit of pruning necessary. Restart fertilizing then.

Watering amounts and frequencies vary throughout the year in this area. In winter, it may be possible to go as much as four or five days between heavy and thorough watering; in the high-dry heat of summer, watering two or three times a day may be the norm for a small container or every day or two for a tree in a large pot.

Month:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Potting												
Repot												
Prune												
Pinch												
Fertilizer												
Insecticide												
Summer Protection												

(This chart was first published in the 1984-85 club yearbook.)

BONSAI CARE IN THE PHOENIX AREA

Because of the long and hot dry summers in our area, some special changes must be made to the instructions found in the standard books or articles. Additional information and updates can be found on our website <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>

Soil Mix - The function of Bonsai soil is to help stabilize the tree and to provide an environment for the absorption of water, oxygen, and nutrients while maintaining excellent drainage. A coarser soil mix is used here to aid drainage, which is very important in our climate. The soil components will be primarily inorganic material with some organic material added; the ratio and specific mixture will vary from person to person. Depending on the needs of the plant involved, 50-75% of the mix will be common inorganic components, which include lava (scoria), pumice, perlite, Turface, crushed granite, chicken grit, coarse sand, and Akadama. Organic materials include orchid bark, cactus mix, potting soil (Black Gold is good) or duff (for collected trees). These should be screened/sieved to remove dust-size particles. The use of peat moss is discouraged completely or recommended in very limited quantities. Any form of manure should not be used as it may introduce soil-borne diseases to the plant. The ideal size of the soil components is 1/16" to 1/4" and sharp particles are preferred over smooth, aiding in root division. If the roots haven't grown much by the next repotting, you'll need to increase the amount of inorganic material in the mix.

Repotting and Root Pruning - Repotting your bonsai will allow the soil to be changed, the roots to be trimmed and the orientation in the pot to be adjusted. The frequency will depend on the age, species, growth of the tree, and the size of the pot and will be done less frequently here, say every two to five years. Some trees will become 'pot-bound' much sooner than others. Repot in the shade, out of the wind and preferably on a day with a dew point of at least 30 and, ideally above 40. Mist the root ball if it will be out of the pot for any length of time. Include a little of the original soil in the new soil to inoculate it with needed microorganisms. The time of year to repot is generally considered to be best when the tree is dormant, with the optimal time being in the spring between bud swelling and bud extension. Transplant as late in the day as possible so the tree has a longer cooling period to aid in its recovery. Keep bonsai in the shade for a week after root pruning. Pots that are slightly deeper or wider than is traditionally used are better in our climate. Still aesthetically pleasing, these give the roots more room and insulation.

Watering - Watering is more frequent, especially with the very low humidity of the pre-monsoon days. While the coarser soil mix holds less water, it is better for the trees because there is less possibility of the roots rotting from excess water in the soil. Some members have had good results using Reverse Osmosis (R.O.) water. Whatever kind is used, apply thoroughly so that run-off comes out of the drainage holes. Then don't water again, depending on type of plant, local weather, and time of year, until the top portion of the soil is dry. Let tap water sit 24 hours before using it if possible. Brown leaf tips may indicate too much or too little watering. If a tree has wilted leaves, put it in the shade and give it a little

water. Give a little more water later that day. Let the roots recover slowly -- don't drown them.

Fertilizing - Properly fertilizing your bonsai will maintain the health and growth of the tree, prevent diseases, and improve flowering. Both organic and inorganic fertilizers consist of macronutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium, N-P-K) and micronutrients. Using organic sources are slower, although safer. Feed your trees full to half-strength monthly from March through October, heavier in the spring and lighter in the heat of summer and early fall. It is a good practice to occasionally vary your fertilizers to assure complete feeding and remember your soil mixture will affect your fertilizing schedule. In addition to soil feeding, you can occasionally provide foliar feeding and include micronutrients. Give foliar feedings during non-hot times. Provide nitrogen from an organic urea source, since most purchased urea is inorganic, as high as 46% nitrogen, not a balanced fertilizer and very likely to burn especially in the heat of the summer. Pay attention to specific plant requirements (below). Organic fertilizer is less likely to burn roots.

Additional Information - Clean the drainage holes of your pots *at least* once a year. Keep that drainage flowing! Also, brush the top layer of soil at least once a year to break up the salt buildup that could cause water to run off instead of sinking in. Deep soaking will also leach out salts.

Young/undeveloped bonsai may require several years in a growing bed or large training pot to develop good form. Putting young trees in a display pot will greatly slow their initial development and can inhibit trunk-thickening significantly. Despite the "all-at-once" creation sometimes shown in our demonstrations, it is less stressful to your trees if you prune, repot, and wire them at different and appropriate times. Take time to study and learn the rhythms of each plant. Photograph or sketch your trees periodically to measure your progress. Plan to work with your tree over a long period of time. Enjoy. Keep some form of log or record on the care, fertilizing, pruning, and growth of each of your trees. Talk to other club members, read the books and magazines, attend workshops and shows, and study full-grown trees of all shapes. Because of the nature of the weather in the greater metropolitan Phoenix area (*Sunset Zone 13*), many of the plants usually recommended for bonsai are not suitable for long-term (over 6 months) outdoor locations here. The plants on the following pages have been rated by members of the Phoenix Bonsai Society as to hardiness as bonsai in containers in Maricopa County. Individual specimens may differ due to variety, size, age, health, and (possibly most importantly) the microclimate in your yard. Generally speaking, a five gallon-size tree is hardier than its one gallon-size counterpart. Your own experience/success with each type may differ from these averages.

As with any form of gardening, there are no absolute guarantees that your bonsai will automatically thrive if you choose certain plants and follow the instructions found throughout this guide. Bonsai is an art that requires hands-on experience over a period of time in order to begin to master it. The information found herein has been gathered over the years from actual local experience and is offered for educational content only.

Special Condition Key:

- A prefers more acidic soil; try 1 Tablespoon white vinegar in 1 gallon of water monthly
- B brown leaf or needle tips indicate salt burn from salt build up; often from too much or too little watering
- C subject to iron or manganese chlorosis (best iron source is a chelated mineral)
- D subject to random branch die-back
- F frost-sensitive, so protect with frost cloth or bring indoors if freezing weather is expected
- I more adaptable than other plants for use as an indoor bonsai
- L may drop some leaves when relocated or repotted
- M attractive to spider mites, so hose-spray and keep in good air-flow
- P pinch first set of leaves when opened, the next will be smaller
- R do not root prune if at all possible; never bare root this kind of plant
- S leaves sunburn/windburn easily, provide shelter/protection
- U larger specimens can take more summer sun when established; caution: increase sun exposure gradually
- W bark is tender or branches are brittle, so wire carefully, if at all

Note: Plants labeled as susceptible to chlorosis when grown in the ground should not have this problem in a container with a quality soil mix and regular fertilizer schedule. "Established" plants are firmly rooted and producing a good growth of new buds which have opened up into leaves.

^ evergreen

% deciduous (some varieties or under mild winter conditions may be semi-deciduous)

* can bloom as bonsai

GROUP I - Hardy, Easy to Grow

Check our website for updates on some of these species

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>

Akebia, Japanese (Akebia quinata) % *

a climbing vine, so sends out suckers at the base; in fall, cut back; flowers in February / March briefly; cuttings root easily

Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea, spp.) F,U,W ^ *

older/larger specimens transplant best mid-summer; takes heavy top pruning; cut a branch off just above a thorn to stimulate new bud growth – sometimes cutting below a thorn will cause die back down to the next branch; buds back on old wood; don't bare-root young plants

Brazilwood (Pau Brazil, Pernambuco) (Caesalpinia echinata) D, Partial F,U ^

For desert variety, not so drought resistant. Can go without water for no more than a week. Tolerates normal watering. Full to part sun. Has lots of sharp thorns. Small round

¼" green leaves that turn yellow/bronze in late fall & winter. Easy to maintain in multi-trunk style and forgiving when pruned. Needs very well draining planting medium.

Elephant Tree (*Bursera microphylla*) F,U,W ^ *

a woody tree in the torchwood family with small, thin pinnate leaves; trunk thickens fairly quickly and becomes fissured with peeling bark; part to full sun; loves the heat; leaves are fragrant when crushed; transplants readily, even as bare root; can be grown from cuttings; doesn't mind being root-bound; requires early pinching and pruning to induce branching and trunk-thickening; native to Arizona and Mexico

Elephant Tree, Fragrant (*Bursera fagaroides*) F,U,W, % *

similar to *B. microphylla* but more frost-sensitive and with larger, broader leaves (select varieties with smallest leaves); from Mexico

Ebony, Texas (*Ebenopsis ebano* formerly *Pithecellobium flexicaule*) D, R, U, W ^ % *

small leaves; very hardy and back-buds easily; evergreen to semi-evergreen; dark green leaves on zigzagging thorny branches; feathery spikes of creamy yellow fragrant flowers in spring and early summer

Emu Bush (*Eremophila*, spp.) ^ *

dense shrubs of several varieties from Australia; gets leggy but tolerates heavy pruning; good root structure is found on fairly young plants; in a pot it needs lots of water; early spring and summer colorful flowers attract hummingbirds

Fig, Weeping (*Ficus benjamina*) F,I,L ^

takes heavy top pruning; allow a small stump to remain when a branch is cut off, the stump will die back; reduce water if leaves have dropped; sensitive to overwatering or cold drafts, keep soil evenly moist; cut largest leaves and let petiole (leaf stalk) remain to control proportions and stimulate new buds; full defoliation of a branch could kill it; most *Ficus* cuttings successfully "take"; can also do air layering with some success; white latex sap of many *Ficus* is irritating to some individuals' skin, if so, use gloves when pruning; sap can be allowed to dry up and fall off on its own or use water-moistened fingers to dilute and remove from branch cuts; 'Natasha', 'Brussels Sprouts' and 'Too Little' are smallest-leaved varieties available

Fig, Burt Davy (*Ficus burtt-davyi*) F,I ^

a fast grower, takes heavy pruning, likes a lot of water; 'Nana' is the smallest-leaved variety

Fig, Indian Laurel / Chinese Banyan (*Ficus microcarpa*) F,I ^

see *Ficus benjamina*

Fig, Narrow or Willow-leaf (*Ficus nerifolia*) F,I,L,M ^

see *Ficus benjamina*; doesn't mind being root-bound; needs a little more light than other *Ficus* species; cold air, not enough light, or overwatering can cause leaf drop; remove large old leaves throughout the year; defoliation said to work well; a wide but shallow container for training will help the tree grow wider and thicker more quickly

Ebony, Mexican (*Havardia mexicana* formerly *Pithecellobium mexicanum*) D,R,U,W,%*
small grayish-green leaves; deciduous; the young bark is grayish green; little puffballs of white slightly scented flowers in spring; thorns

Tenaza (*Havardia pallens* formerly *Pithecellobium pallens*) D,R,U, W ^ % *

semi-deciduous; faster growing than Texas and Mexican Ebony; the vanilla-scented puffball flowers from spring through fall are very fragrant; thorns

Juniper, Procumben (*Juniperus procumbens* 'Nana') B,M,U ^

junipers are NOT indoor bonsai; pinch/pull off fat new buds on all junipers with fingers, not scissors (no matter how sharp they are, scissors press/crush needles, which then turn brown); carefully pull off old brown needles; don't overwater; wet the foliage fifteen minutes before working on one; give all junipers plenty of light and fresh air, but protect smaller specimens from direct afternoon sun as necessary; do not bare-root junipers; grayish foliage could be severe injury from spider mites; avoid spider mites on all junipers by hosing off foliage weekly; foliage normally takes on purplish tinge during cooler winters; wilted or brown foliage will NOT revive; best pruning time here is February to March, and again in October; best wiring time is in the autumn; best repotting time is January to February

Lantana (Lantana, spp.) F,U,W % *

cut back heavily just before leaf buds open in late winter; extremely attractive to white flies; trunk very slow to fatten in pot, so start with as big a specimen as possible

Myrtle, Dwarf (Myrtus communis 'Compacta') F,U ^ *

can prune back hard in February, but don't do so every year; heavy pruning may cause some die back; do not bare-root; some specimens may be frost-sensitive; fast grower; try not to remove too much of root ball at once, best to do so in February; can also be repotted in October

Natal Plum (Carissa macrocarpa) F,U,W ^ *

a slow grower; can be very forgiving; keep these plants slightly drier than wetter; wire green branches only; accepts severe pruning; cut large leaves in half to promote re-budding; "Boxwood Beauty" is smallest leaved variety available

Olive (Olea europaea) U,W ^

watch out for scale insect infestation; better to wire green wood; roots grow quickly, best to reduce root ball down in June or July; transplants best in summer; even cut-back large old landscape specimens are said to transplant successfully; only produces flowers on ends of second-year growth, so a properly trimmed bonsai should never flower; keep suckers growing from trunk base under control; take soft cuttings for rooting in October, March or April

Ironwood (Olneya tesota) D U %

very small leaves that make beautiful pads with pruning; it can be wired and easily styled as a bonsai; grows fast and buds back readily; it has thorns; semi-deciduous

Jabily Tree (Operculicarya decaryi) F,U %

this Madagascan tree is a member of the cashew family, growing over 20 feet tall with a trunk 3 ½ feet in diameter in habitat; fine, shiny green pinnate leaves turn almost black in full sun; can be grown from cuttings but more quickly forms a thick rippled trunk from seed (reportedly ¾ inch trunk and 15 inch height in 15 months); available as seeds or cutting-propagated plants on the web or from desert plant nurseries; thrives in heat

Pittosporum (Pittosporum, spp.) ^ *

susceptible to aphids and scale; 'Wheeler's Dwarf' is a common small-leaved variety; P. phillyreoides may do better in desert

Indian Rosewood (Dalbergia Sissoo) I,P,U,W ^ *

Belongs to the pea family. Semi-evergreen with aspen-like leaves that grow in threes-fives. Thornless bark is smooth and grey with greenish cast. Both leaves and branches grow alternate. Full sun, partial shade during height of summer. Medium watering. It has rapid growth so close attention is needed. Sissoo produces fragrant cream-colored

flowers in spring and early summer.

African Sumac (Rhus lancea) C,P,U ^ *
can normally drop some of their leaves during the hot summer; upper part of the tree grows like a weed, but trunk and branches take a while to thicken; "Clip and Grow" works better than wiring

Chinese Elm (Ulmus parvifolia) M %
a fast grower; takes heavy top pruning; when leaf pruning, allow the petiole (leaf stem) to remain; a dead growing season elm has dry green leaves, brown leaves are normal at end of season; defoliate completely in early January; large specimens are fairly forgiving; propagation from cuttings very successful; 'Catlin' is variety of choice; very small-leaved 'Seiju' hardier than 'Hokkaido'

Vitex / Chaste Tree / Monk's Pepper (Vitex agnus-castus) U % *
buds back on old wood; leaf size will be reduced if new growth is pinched back to one or two nodes during the spring and early summer; when buds appear in February is ideal time to prune and wire; water less during dormant period after leaves drop

GROUP II - Fairly Hardy

Check our website for updates on some of these species

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>

Acacia (Acacia, spp.) D F U W ^ *
native to Australia, Mexico and Southwest U.S.; over two dozen species are hardy here; rarely suffer any pest damage; may become chlorotic in our alkaline soil

Quailbush (Atriplex, spp.) %*
small-leaved desert species make interesting bonsai

Olive, Black (Bucida spinosa) F *
hard to shape, but does form basic foliage pads by itself; horizontal branches are sent out spoke-like from distinct places on the trunk (like some pines); it is recommended to pinch off new shoots just a few at a time for the sake of the tree's health; likes plenty of water; not a true olive

Weeping Bottlebrush (Callistemon viminalis) B,C,U ^

Hackberry, Reticulated or Western (Celtis reticulata) U %
Foliage may die off after trimming, so only prune in spring when growth is vigorous; lots of sun; said to need at least six weeks below 41°F for healthy dormancy

Carob / St. John's Bread (Ceratonia siliqua) U ^
do not bare-root; young are susceptible to cold-injury; does not die-back at stem cut so you can prune within 1/4" of the branch you want to keep

Palo Verde / Palo Brea (Parkinsonia, spp.) D,R,U %
trimming dead branches off could kill part of the trunk around those branches; Little Leaf Palo Verde (P. microphylla) is slow growing; Blue Palo Verde (P. florida) grows faster as does Palo Brea (P. praecox) from Mexico which has a nicer pale green trunk, but it is more frost-sensitive than the two native species; difficult to repot; repot early in the spring; don't remove too much of root ball; likes a roomy pot

Desert Willow (Chilopsis linearis) U ^ *

a vigorous grower; can be over-watered; repot in spring when buds appear; can be potted in a shallower pot than most desert trees; subject to chlorosis if not given supplemental iron

Citrus (Citrus spp.) F, I, S ^ *

most nursery citrus have an unsightly graft too high on a straight trunk, but there are some low graft treasures if you look; occasionally you can find a plant grown from seed; do not prune too much all at once, fertilize regularly with organic citrus food; they should dry out between watering; fruit will be full size on your bonsai, so use kumquat, calamondin or mandarin for small fruit

Olive, Texas (Cordia boissieri) U %

not a true olive; better branching than on angular small-leaved species, C. parvifolia

Silver Berry (Eleagnus, spp.) P ^ *

give a little shade; when defoliating for leaf size and not dormancy, allow the petiole and one-quarter of the old leaf to remain on the branch; fall flowers

Brittlebush (Encelia farinosa) % *

will bloom when extra long shoots are allowed to remain; only lives about 10 years

Evergreen Euonymus (Euonymus japonica) M, U ^

Arizona Ash (Fraxinus velutina) P, U %

a vigorous grower, but leaves can burn badly by late June; look for the little-leaf variety

Silk Oak (Grevillea robusta) B, I, U, W ^

G. rosmarinifolia said to be easier foliage type to work with

Yaupon Holly (Ilex vomitoria) W ^ *

angular branch growth can be challenging; pinch back new growth; too much fertilizer results in large leaves; nursery specimens often have very attractive flaring roots half an inch below the level of the soil; separate male and female plants needed to produce berries; 'Stokes' is smallest-leaved variety available; 'Easy Berry' is reported to self-pollinate

Juniper, Shore (Juniperus conferta) U ^

see other junipers for care; you'll get even more needle die-back with needles that end up under wiring than you would with other junipers, but this species has longer and softer needles

Juniper, Prostrate (Juniperus prostrata 'Foemina') M, U ^

see Juniper procumbens

Juniper, San Jose (Juniperus squamata) M, U ^

see Juniper procumbens; this one has small needles; best to get a specimen at the nursery right off the truck from California, you can then trim back the outer branches before the important inner growth gets fried by our heat and dies off

Texas Sage / Texas Ranger (Leucophyllum, spp.) E, M, U ^ *

do not overwater; buds branch easily with spring pruning; can be slow recovering from repotting; keeping new growth trimmed back to a few leaves is said to prevent new growth from falling off entirely; 'Green Cloud' is best variety

Privet, Japanese / Wax-Leaf (Ligustrum japonicum) F, S ^

do not overwater, yet do not dry out; too wet soil will result in root rot; subject to scale; roots grow fast and fine; "Clip and Grow" is the preferred method of training; cut scars and wire scars heal slowly; wiring takes several seasons to position a branch; broken but attached branches said to heal O.K.; propagate from cuttings of any size

- Barbados Cherry** (Malpighia glabra) A,C,F,I ^
prefers high humidity and rich soil mix; water well to flush out salts; likes lots of light
- Desert Fern / Feather Bush** (Lysiloma thornberi) U % *
buds back well from trunk; has a tendency to get leggy if not cut back; repot in spring when new growth appears; relatively easy to pot and will accept root pruning; likes a deeper pot; will flower in pot culture
- Pink Melaleuca** (Melaleuca nesophila) B,U ^
requires lots of water; buds back on old wood
- Mulberry, White** (Morus alba) P,U %
a fast grower; takes heavy top pruning, especially if in a growing bed
- Orange Jasmine** (Murraya exotica) F ^ *
likes the heat; water generously during the growing seasons, not so much in winter; can prune all year, but flower buds begin to appear in summer
- Myrtle, Twisted** (Myrtus communis 'Boetica') ^ *
when new growth begins in spring, clip all leaves off or in half with scissors; sunlight on dormant buds will bring an abundance of growth; sun or partial shade; hardy to 28° F
- Elephant Tree** (Pachycormus discolor) F,U,W,%
the combination of thick trunk, papery bark and short, fine, pinnate leaves is hard to beat; winter grower; often summer deciduous; in cashew family; full sun; don't over-water, especially in cold weather; slow growing; requires early pinching and pruning to induce branching and trunk-thickening; very slow to thicken in pot, so best to start with big specimen; from Mexico
- Pine, Aleppo** (Pinus halepensis) B,R ^
yellow needle tips probably indicate that soil is too wet; NEVER bare-root ANY pine; pull off longer mature needles to maintain size and shape; Aleppo's different than most other pines in that this produces both juvenile and mature needles; February and September are best pruning months; buds back better than other pines; do not prune and repot at the same time
- Pistachio / Mastic** (Pistache lentiscus) U %
keep soil constantly moist, but not saturated; wire in late summer or early fall; likes full sun
- Arborvitae, Oriental** (Platycladus orientalis formerly Thuja orientalis) M ^
needs partial shade; after wiring, curve each branch to improve appearance; buds plentifully back on old wood
- Mesquite** (Prosopis, spp.) D,U %
cuttings easily propagated; allow a small stump to remain when a branch is cut off, the stump will die back; when plant gets too dry will loose leaves quickly
- Pomegranate, Dwarf** (Punica granatum 'Nana') D,S,W % *
fast grower; lots of light; don't style and repot all at once; let plant set fruit only every other year; old specimens tend to die back and throw shoots at the base, which can then be shaped for your "new" tree; very easy to get thrips which cause leaves to curl and become misshapen; multiple treatments with a systemic pesticide will control them.
- Tamarisk / Salt Cedar** (Tamarix, spp.) D L R W % *
easy to grow from ½ - 1 in. cuttings set in soil where they are to grow; transplanting them can be touchy; in containers they have no tap root and require lots of water; they

are classified as weeds in Arizona and are rarely found in nurseries

T. chinensis has blue green foliage; semi-deciduous, may not lose any leaves in a warm winter; resists both heat and cold; flowers at branch ends

T. parviflora has pink flowers in spring; graceful arching branches, excellent for weeping style; it will freeze in cold weather, but the main trunk will come back with new branches in the spring; the leaves will yellow if it does not get enough water

Schefflera, Hawaiian Elf (*Schefflera arboricola*) B,F,I,M,W ^

cuttings easily propagated; if growth becomes leggy, cut back freely; evidence suggests that if you cut with standard knife blade only the next leaf under the cut will produce a branching bud, but if you use a heated blade -- effectively cauterizing the cut-- the next two leaves will produce branching buds; remove largest leaves but let petiole (leaf stalk) remain; some say wiring is seldom used, others indicate that careful wiring of young branches seems to harden up their wood faster; don't overwater

California Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*)

buds back on old wood; susceptible to Texas root rot; low to moderate amounts of water; foliage can cause dermatitis

Grape, European (*Vitis vinifera*) U %

must have very good drainage; allow surface drying between watering; likes soil on acid side; a deeper than normal pot may be better; give lots of sun; large old specimens from a vineyard are best; fruits out of new wood; pinch new growth rigorously; NOT an indoor plant; 'Thompson Seedless' said to be hardiest variety; another recommended species is *V. rotundifolia*, a Muscadine grape

GROUP III - Difficult at Times

Check our website for updates on some of these species

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>

Boxwood, Japanese (*Buxus microphylla japonica*) F ^ *

prefers alkaline soil; be careful not to damage shallow roots; needs a little winter chill; best bark texture can be found on 5 gallon+ size specimens; best time to trim is right before monsoon season starts in June or July; 'Kingsville' is smallest-leaved variety available

Camellia (*Camellia*, spp.) ^ *

needs a little winter chill; not easily shaped; do not fertilize when in bloom; 'Sasanqua' varieties have the smallest blossoms

Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) W % *

buds back well on old wood; so "Clip & Grow" rather than wire; give afternoon shade

Cypress, Arizona (*Cupressus arizonica glabra*) U ^

Gardenia (*Gardenia augusta*) M ^ *

Requires shade; use blood meal as fertilizer; use soil mix with lots of organic matter; keep crown of roots uncovered; subject to scale and spider mites; same plant as *G. jasminoides*; 'Radicans' is smallest-leaved variety available

Lavender Starflower (*Grewia occidentalis*) A,C,F,I % *

a fast grower; takes heavy top pruning; leaves wilted from temporary nonlethal water

deprivation will not rehydrate, but will eventually turn black and be shed as the tree puts out new ones; frost tender

Jacaranda (Jacaranda mimosifolia) F %

keep soil uniformly moist throughout the year; yellow leaves dropping could be due to too much water; brown leaves shrinking could be due to dry root ball; can be vigorously root-pruned and transplanted in the spring; shorten new shoots to 1 or 2 pairs of leaves after they have produced at least 4 or 5 pairs; regularly remove all large leaves

Creosote / Greasewood (Larrea tridentata) M,R,U ^ *

this plant is difficult to establish, but then is hardy; it actually likes water and needs more water than you'd expect; they need quite a lot of nitrogen; also apply iron at least once per year; should be grown in full sun providing the pot is buried in a raised bed or in the ground during July, August, and September to keep the roots cool; needs to be wired once or twice a year to keep small branches horizontal after shape is established, April and August are good (but not only) times to prune and wire; pinch, don't cut, soft growth all summer; hardened growth can be cut; wild-dug specimens can be large-trunked, but survival rate is about 50%; try to get as many roots as possible, plant in large/over-size container, use regular bonsai mix, and give it time; they can be dug just about any time of the year, but some members report better success after a rain

Liquidamber / Sweet Gum (Liquidamber, spp.) C,S %

can be used instead of Japanese Maple; prefers a neutral or slightly acid soil mix; remove all large terminal buds from branches in spring to encourage side buds; repot less often; can throw large/disproportioned leaves; give as much sun as it will tolerate to set up good autumn coloring; you don't have to leaf prune this plant

Magnolia (Magnolia, spp.) % *

leaves are disproportionately large, but flowers make tree a worth-while bonsai; prune after flowers start to wither; cut the top off the plant and a number of buds will sprout below; branch placement not always good; M. stellata said to be best for bonsai

Crab Apple (Malus, spp.) % *

fertilize once in the spring, if you fertilize during the summer it could dehydrate the plant; might show a little windburn on leaves; needs a winter chill to do well and develop flower buds; the flowers develop out of last year's growth; needs full-day filtered sun; susceptible to root rot; prefer being in a deeper pot for cool roots; need a period of freezing weather to stay healthy and look their best; keep soil away from direct contact with the bark of the trunk; can be a very fast grower; keep upwind from junipers or keep as far away from junipers -- bonsai or landscape specimens -- as possible because junipers can spread rust infection to crab apples

Pine, Eldarica or Goldwater (Pinus eldarica) R ^

a fast grower

Pine, Italian Stone (Pinus pinea) B,M,R ^

yellow needle tips means soil too wet, but don't let roots dry out; best bargains can be found right after Christmas, especially in the garden section of department stores (just be sure your choice was watered regularly)

- Pear, Flowering** (Pyrus calleryana) C,U % *
sometimes has fungus problems on its roots; showy flowers for only a month in January; leaves come out and harden in February/March; best pruning time is May but not after August when flower buds start to develop; filtered sun best; full sun O.K. October to April
- Oak** (Quercus, spp.) %
needs shade in summer; Live Oaks do very well here; NEVER leaf prune or defoliate oaks; prefer deeper pots because they root deeply; can be bare-rooted when dormant; some oaks have dark brown roots which are healthy but not the expected light color
- Rosemary** (Rosmarinus officinalis) M,R,U ^ *
do not let go dry; a fast grower; keep pruned; in Phoenix seems to have a short lifespan of only a couple of years when potted
- Plum, Chinese Sweet** (Sageretia theezens) D,F % *
fast grower; likes water; will not tolerate cold drafts or a constantly dry atmosphere, especially if in a heated indoor location; wiring not often used; needs some shade; may take a few years to hold on to branches rather than drop them; said to do better in a peat-based soil as opposed to the typical bonsai soil; needs frequent, at least annual, repotting in fresh soil; this is a hungry species and seems to need high fertility and lots of root space to grow vigorously
- Chinese Tallow Tree** (Sapium sebiferum) A,D %
get during autumn so you can check leaf color; no high Nitrogen fertilizer in autumn; tree exudes a chemical which prevents growth of other types of plants, so don't use in multi-culture forests
- Australian Bush Cherry** (Syzygium paniculatum) B,D,F,I ^
accepts low light levels, but does better with more light; prune lightly regularly; let soil dry slightly before watering; formerly called Eugenia paniculatum
- Cape Honeysuckle** (Tecomaria capensis) D,F,U ^
trunk very slow to fatten in pot, so best to start with as large specimen as possible; fast growth spurts; need to cut back strongly once or twice a year, often resulting in some die-back

GROUP IV - Challenging, Difficult to Grow

Check our website for updates on some of these species
<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>

- Maple, Trident** (Acer buergeranum) B,F,S %
a fast grower; watch closely if wired to avoid scarring; the leaves grow smaller under more/fuller sun; leaves wilt slightly if dry, but will be O.K. after prompt watering; leaf prune in August and September; the leaves change color in the winter; keep soil moist but not wet in cold weather; soap insecticides are said to be bad for these trees; other dry location recommended species are A. ginnala and A. monspessulanum
- Maple, Japanese** (Acer palmatum) A,B,S,W % *
some leaf burn is inevitable by mid-June; partially defoliate by cutting off a leaf and leaving only the bottom 1/4" of the petiole after most leaves have turned brown in mid-

summer; do not defoliate two years in a row; don't ever clip healthy (non-burnt) leaves on young/thin-trunked trees or those repotted this same year or any of the exotic cultivars

Pine, Norfolk Island (Araucaria heterophylla) I ^

needs bright light; shade small specimens from direct sun; use small specimens for a forest planting; not a true pine

Manzanita (Arcotostaphylos, spp.) R ^ *

usually difficult to grow in a container; treat like a cactus: very quick draining soil mix, little water; buds back on old wood; successfully collecting from the wild said to be next to impossible: dig two weeks after a rain, add mycorrhiza to the soil, use rainwater, put moss on soil surface to help maintain moisture level, and spray with water until extra runs out bottom drainage holes

Fairy Duster (Calliandra eriophylla) F ,R,U,W % *

said to bloom about three weeks after giving a high phosphorus (middle number) fertilizer

Hornbeam (Carpinus, spp.) %

shade leaves and keep cool in summer; remove oversize leaves only; allow a small stump to remain when a branch is cut off, the stump will die back

Japanese Quince (Chaenomeles lagenaria) B, C % *

a fast grower; prune after leaves drop; needs winter cold for best flowering; leaves open after the flowers do

Buttonwood (Conocarpus erectus) A,F ^

likes bright light, good air circulation and consistent moisture; repot and root prune in hottest part of summer; can take quite a while to bounce back; do NOT do too much defoliation or branch removal late in the season; very cold sensitive, cover well whenever temperature is less than 45°F; copper wire has possible toxic effects on buttonwoods; large trunks and branches will sprout roots by placing them in a bucket of water in full sun

Mexican Heather (Cuphea hyssopifolia) F,I

never let dry out -- the plant will die; requires constant grooming; older plants can be cut back severely in late fall or early spring; easy to grow from cuttings; for compact growth, pinch tips of shoots; do not water for 2 weeks after transplanting / repotting

Fukien Tea (Ehretia microphylla) F,I,L ^

give lots of light, but not direct sun; likes heat and humidity, but don't keep too wet; repot in early to mid-summer; can be attractive to scale insects: fingernail scrape off what you can; soap insecticides are said to cause defoliation of these trees, so be careful; will die if exposed to slight frost or even a cold draft

Eucalyptus / Gum Tree (Eucalyptus, spp.) D,F ^

difficult to shape with either wiring or drastic pruning; easily root-bound; neglected nursery stock may be best as these specimens are often ready to be root-pruned and repotted straight away, and their condition might simulate dormancy

Ginkgo / Maidenhair Tree (Ginkgo biloba) %

only repot every 3 to 4 years; do not over-water; leaves yellow quickly if light inadequate during growing season; in autumn leaves turn yellow and pale before dropping; keep on dry side; leave a stump at base of pruned branch, then remove later when tree has recovered; branches known to dieback if pruned during a hot or cold spell; try making

cuttings in October, keep misted

Juniper, California (Juniperus californica) D,M,U ^

see other junipers for care; if you get one from a dig, give it plenty of time to re-establish strong growth before you start to prune; don't give more than a couple of hours of direct morning sun until it's putting out lots of new growth, may need up to a year to re-acclimate to more sun exposure, use a very loose soil mix, keep foliage misted; addition of Superthrive® is recommended

Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia indica) A,B,C,U,W % *

don't keep soil too moist; can be heavily pruned just before leaves open

Tea Tree, Australian / New Zealand (Leptospermum, spp.) A,C,R,W ^ *

DO NOT EVER LET THIS PLANT GO DRY, it does not wilt but dies in a matter of hours; water when soil slightly dry on top; style in stages, not all at once; needs lots of light; don't prune back to bare wood as it rarely buds back on old wood; try not to bother roots at all, do NOT attempt to untangle them; temperamental but several species are said to be suitable for bonsai; L. humifusum said to be hardiest species

Pine, Japanese Black (Pinus thunbergii) B,R ^

give abundant organic fertilizer in the spring and summer, including foliar feedings; requires much light; learn about proper candle and needle pinching before attempting repotting; leave all growth on an immature tree through the summer, then cut long growth off in October, repeat this several years until the trunk and branches are large enough, then start trimming candles and long growth in April/May to push out a second set of needles in a single year; mist needle ends with cold water right after cutting them to slow non-salt browning of ends; needle reduction can be achieved by reducing the amount of water given to the tree in the spring and by regulating the flow of energy throughout the growing season; prefers neutral to slightly acidic soil; California soil mix: 1/3 hard Akadama, 1/3 lava, 1/3 pumice with 5% decomposed granite and 5% charcoal, all washed and screened down to ¼ inch

Plum, Japanese Flowering (Prunus mume) S % *

leaves burn easily; cut back on water if leaves have dropped; it is suggested to develop the top first with the plant over-potted, then reduce roots last; flowers between January and March; prune back leaving several buds after flowering to enhance the tree's design; do not prune the tree again until after the winter bloom

Plum, Purple-leaf (Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea') % *

most Prunus (peach, plum, cherry, apricot, almond, etc.) species seem to live for only a few years as bonsai here; possibly deeper pots will help; this is the hardiest Prunus here; gorgeous in bloom with white petals against green leaves before they turn purplish; susceptible to aphids

Pyracantha / Firethorn (Pyracantha, spp.) M,R,U ^ *

surprisingly rated as a "4," does much better as landscape plant here than containerized; repot with some of its original soil, best time January

Serissa / Snow Rose (Serissa foetida) A,I,L,M,R ^ *

likes humidity of 65%+, but don't overwater; wait to water until one leaf turns yellow or dull; high humidity when flowering said to discolor petals; indoors keep cool; give as much light as possible, but not too much direct sun; leaves turn black and fall off with stunted growth in winter temps below 55° F; strong Nitrogen fertilizer said to cause black leaves also; very prone to drop leaves when stressed; only allow one flowering

per year and remove emerging blossoms after first flowering is past; will bud back on old wood; hold off root pruning as long as possible (and then be aware that cut roots normally emit a rank odor), repot into larger container if necessary; have been known to bud as late as May

Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) A %

a fast grower; keep very moist in good draining soil mix; can even sit in tray of non-tap water if changed every other day to every few days – no problem in the quickly evaporative summer; just be sure to keep the tray filled; if it goes a day or two without water and the green feathery branches wilt, fill tray with non-tap water and care for as usual, new growth should pop out within a week from base of old leaf which has turned black and dead; can be kept a little drier in winter; prefers a deeper pot; to develop branches do NOT allow long growth; continually pinch new growth with fingertips before it hardens; immediately remove any buds breaking at the base of branches; buds back on old wood; this cypress does much better with pot in shallow water or in a humidity tray

Wisteria (Wisteria, spp.) C % *

the Japanese species has 15-19 leaflets, and likes more sun; the Chinese species has 7-13 leaflets, and needs some shade; both kinds prefer a high phosphate acid fertilizer in the autumn and also some fish emulsion or rape seed fertilizer; do not use Nitrogen fertilizer after September; have fast growing roots

Zelkova / Japanese Gray-Bark Elm (Zelkova serrata) S %

treat as you would a Chinese elm, but this species is less forgiving

GROUP V - Non-woody Plants

Check our website for updates on some of these species

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>

Aralia (Aralia, spp.) F,S ^

an upright species with fan-like leaves that produce suckers, these need to be cut off to control width; needs to be wet, so water generously; sensitive to high heat and hot winds so protect with shade cloth in summer; if pruned often it can serve as an accent plant for a few years; some varieties have thorns; it looks tropical; most species are woody; some are herbaceous; may be short-lived here

Sago Palm (Cycas revoluta) B,C,F,I ^

hardy, easy to grow; very slow grower, esp. in pots; needs shade; wiring not used; yellowing fronds are old or Manganese deficient; evenly spaced leaf spotting means too dry between watering; side shoots root easily; small cluster grouping with side “pups” (new shoots) can be a good composition; more an accessory plant than a “true” bonsai

English Ivy (Hedera helix) ^

challenging, difficult to grow here; give some sun, but mostly cool shade; needs good draining soil; cuttings take poorly; does not like to be wired except when shoots are young; large branches need to be wrapped in raffia before wiring; tends to develop good exposed surface roots (neabari) with minimal effort

Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina domestica) C ^ *

difficult at times; not a true bamboo; wiring seldom used; best in group plantings; remove the oldest stems to prune; the buds tend to come out a few inches below the chop and at

a rather sudden angle, so it's hard to get a tree without sudden zags in it, can get several sprouts, but they're as likely to all be on the same side as not; prune the top to get lower growth; leaves change color in the autumn; a chill brings out best color; do not let dry out; short-lived

Elephant's Food / Dwarf Jade (Portulacaria afra) F,U,W ^

hardy, easy to grow; not a true jade, not even related to it, but this is very much hardier and has more compact growth; cuttings over three inches long are very, very easily propagated, so you can start with a branch or trunk portion that is already well shaped and branched; cuttings up to at least two inches in diameter don't need to be callused; rooting hormone not needed whatever the cutting size; to trim, pinch off the second pair of new leaves often; avoid over-watering; possible to withhold watering on established plants until the largest leaf pads just start to wrinkle from dehydration; leaf pads very easily break off, so use extreme caution if you plan to wire; variegated varieties slower growing

Sedum (Sedum, spp.) F,I ^

hardy, easy to grow; best in bright light but not direct sun; much less water in winter; more of a companion or accessory plant than a "true" bonsai; *S. oxypetalum* especially has look of small gnarled tree but is very frost sensitive; *S. frutescens* is called the Tree Sedum

Rhapis / Lady Palm (Rhapis excelsa) | ^

Difficult at times; a slow grower; wiring not used; best with some shade

Trichodiadema (Trichodiadema, spp.) | ^ *

hardy, easy to grow; treat like a succulent, but does like water; pinch around to shape; may need a little winter chill for best blooming; flowers profusely early in spring; more of a companion or accessory plant than a "true" bonsai

Try species and varieties not listed here and increase your knowledge, especially with desert-adapted trees and shrubs; but check with club members first; it may be a species that has already failed the 110 F degree test! The use of a greenhouse may improve your success with the less hardy specimens. However, be aware that "hothouse plants" are less able to withstand sudden, unforeseen changes in growing conditions. These include outdoor weekend displays or shows, even Matsuri in late February. Just be advised that the risk is always there.

The above information is derived from three club surveys and reviews by club mentors, ongoing conversations with assorted members, new entries at meetings and displays, and contains 10% or less of material found in postings from the Internet Bonsai Club, the *Sunset Western Gardening Guide*, *Bonsai in Your Home* by Paul Lesniewicz, *The Bonsai Handbook* by David Prescott with Colin Lewis, and *Bonsai with Tropicals* by Mary C. Miller. Updated and more detailed data for these plants is added throughout the year on the club's web site at www.phoenixbonsai.com.

Revised 2013



Sam Adina with club members during his shohin olive workshop



Shohin olive



Schefflera bonsai owned by Jeff Skelpsa



Elsie Andrade viewing trees at the GSBF convention

CLUB LIBRARY

Over 1,000 books on all areas of horticulture, design, gardening and related subjects are available to members of all clubs through the Valley Garden Center Library. The Phoenix Bonsai Society has many books and periodicals available for check out to members who have paid their membership dues for the year.

Thanks to the generosity of many people, our Phoenix Bonsai Society has an exceptional library from which we can all draw information and inspiration. Please help us keep it that way by observing the following guidelines.

To Check Out Bonsai Club Books:

- You must be an active dues paying member of the Phoenix Bonsai Society.
- Go to the club librarian and have her fill out the card inside the book or periodical with your name and the date you are checking out the item.
- No more than two items may be checked out at any one time.
- Books and periodicals may be checked out for one month.
- There is a section of books that may not be removed from the Garden Center.

If you find you will not be able to attend club meetings for a period of time and you have books checked out, please contact the Librarian or other board member to arrange for pick-up of books. The books are popular and often there is a waiting list for materials.

When returning books, please give them to the club librarian. The librarian will mark the card returned and put it back in the book, re-shelving the materials for you. Please do not re-shelve books when returning them; the librarian will perform this task.

Phoenix Bonsai Society Books for Checking Out

All About Pruning by Ortho Books (1978)

An Introduction to Bonsai by Bonsai Kai...Japan Bonsai Society (1989)

Basic Bonsai Design by David De Groot (1995)

Beginners Guide to American Bonsai by Jerald P. Stowell (1986)

Beginning Bonsai-- the Gentle Art of Miniature Tree Growing by Shirley & Larry Student (1993)

Bonkei, Tray Landscapes by Jozan Hirota (1974)

Bonsai by Susan M.B. Resnick (1991, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens)

RBonsai by Alan Roger (1985, Royal Horticultural Society)
Bonsai – 101 Essential Tips by Harry Tomlinson (1996)
Bonsai – A care manual by Colin Lewis (1997)
Bonsai – Complete guide to Art and Technique by Paul Lesniewicz (1987)
A Step-by-Step Guide,– Growing and Displaying Bonsai by Colin Lewis & Neil Sutherland (1993)
Bonsai – Japanese Miniature Trees by Kan Yashiroda (1960)
Bonsai – Miniature Trees by Claude Chidamian (1958)
Bonsai – Step by Step Growing Success by David Pike (1989)
Bonsai – The Art and Technique by Dorothy S. Young (1985)
Bonsai – The Complete Handbook by Darlene Dunton (1984)
Bonsai Book of Practical Facts by Jerome Meyer (1990)
Bonsai by Kenji Murata and Keiji Murata (1974)
Bonsai by Christine Stewart (1992)
Bonsai by Susan Lang and the Editor of Sunset Books (2003)
Bonsai by the Editors of Sunset (1994, 1997, 1967)
Bonsai by Harry Tomlinson (1995)
Bonsai Design – Deciduous/Coniferous Trees by Peter D. Adams (1990)
Bonsai Design – Japanese Maples by Peter D. Adams (1988)
Bonsai Design – Scots Pine, Juniper, Larch by Peter D. Adams (1985)
Bonsai For Americans by George F. Hull (1964)
Bonsai For Indoors by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1986, 1976)
Bonsai for the Home and Garden by Leonard Webber (1985)
Bonsai from Native Trees and Shrubs by Werner Busch (1993)
Bonsai Ideas by Marty Mann (2005)
Bonsai Identifier by Gordon Owen (1995)
Bonsai- Illustrated Guide to an Ancient Art by Sunset (1972)
Bonsai Illustrated Guide to an Ancient Art: A New Edition by Sunset Books (1994)
Bonsai in your Home – An Indoor Growers Guide by Paul Lesniewicz (1996)
Bonsai Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy by Deborah R. Koreshoff (1984)
Bonsai Journal of the American Bonsai Society Vol.1 – 5 (1967 – 1972)
Bonsai Landscapes by Peter Adams (1999)
Bonsai Manual – Judging – Buying – Appreciating by American Bonsai Society (1997)
Bonsai Manual for Appreciating, Judging and Buying Bonsai by Lynn Perry & Dorothy Young (1974)
Bonsai Manual for Appreciating, Judging and Buying Bonsai by Lynn Perry & Dorothy Young (1984)
Bonsai Masterclass by Peter Chan (1987)
Bonsai Miniature Potted Trees by Shufunotomo, Co. Ltd. (1964) (2 ea)
Bonsai Saikei and Bonkei, Japanese Dwarf Trees and Tray Landscapes

by Robert Lee Behme (1969)
Bonsai Special Techniques by Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1981)
Bonsai Survival Manual by Colin Lewis (1996)
Bonsai with American Trees by Masakuni Kawasumi (1975)
Bonsai with Tropicals by Mary C. Miller (2005)
Bonsai, Culture and Care of Miniature Trees by Sunset Books (1965)
Bonsai, The Art of Dwarfing Trees by Ann Kimball Pipe (1964)
Bonsai: A Guide for Baffled Buyers by Portia Bohn & Wallace B. Stone (1975)
Bonsai: Indoors and Out by Jerald P. Stowell (1996)
Bonsai: Trees and Shrubs by Lynn R. Perry (1964)
Bonsai-Miniature Potted Trees by Kyuzo Murata (1964)
Bonsai-Miniature Potted Trees by Norio Kobayashi (1996, 1959, 1951)
Bonsai-Miniatures Quick and Easy by Zeko Nakamura (1973)
Bonsai-the Art of Growing and Keeping Miniature Trees by Peter Chan (1985)
Catalog From the 13th Nihon Bonsai Meihin Ten by the Japanese Bonsai Gems Exhibition
Chinese Bonsai – The Art of Penjing by Llona Lesniewicz & Li Zhimin (1988)
Chinese Penjing – Miniature Trees and Landscapes by Yunhua Hu (1987)
Ching Chung Bonsai by The Hong Kong Bonsai Society (7 booklets, Pink, Orange, Green, Red)
Create your Own Bonsai with Garden Plants by Peter Chan (1998)
Creating Bonsai by Joe Davies (1995)
Creating Japanese Gardens by Phillip Cave (1993)
Creating Japanese Gardens by Crocker (1989)
Cultivating Bonsai by Editio Publishing (1998)
Designing Dwarfs in the Desert by Robert J. Baran (1997)
Dwarfed Potted Trees – The Bonsai of Japan by Brooklyn Botanical Garden (2 copies)
Dwarfed Tree Manual for Westerners by Samuel Newson (1960)
Elements of Japanese Gardens by Isao Yoshikawa (1990)
FICUS: The Exotic Bonsai by Jerry Meislik (2004)
Floral Art of Japan by Tourist Library Vol.1 (1936)
Flower Oasis – Potted Tree (1995, In Japanese)
Four Seasons of Bonsai by Kyuzo Murata (1991)
Gnarly Branches, Ancient Trees - The Life and Workshop of Dan Robinson - Bonsai Pioneer
Handbook on Dwarf Potted Trees: The Bonsai of Japan by BBG (1959,1953)
Herbal Bonsai by Richard Bender (1996)
Ideas for Japanese Gardens by Sunset (1972)
In the Japanese Garden by Michael S. Yaashita & E. Bibb (1991)
Indoor Bonsai by David Pike (1989)

International Bonsai Digest Bicentennial Edition by Juyne M. Tayson (ed.) (1976)
International Bonsai Digest presents Bonsai Gems by Juyne M. Tayson (ed.) (1974)
Introducing Bonsai Training and Growing by Christian Pressey (1989)
Introductory Bonsai and the Care and Use of Bonsai Tools by Masakuni Kawasumi (1971)
Japanese Azalea Bonsai (1975, In Japanese)
Japanese Deciduous Bonsai (1976, In Japanese)
Japanese Haiku by Peter Pauper Press (1955-1956)
Japanese Satsuki Azalea by Japan Satsuki Association
Keep your Bonsai alive and well by Herb L. Gustafson (1995)
Keeping your Bonsai perfectly shaped by Herb L. Gustafson (1997)
Low Maintenance Bonsai by Herb L. Gustafson (1999)
Making Bonsai Landscapes by Herb L. Gustafson (1994)
Man Lung Artistic Pot Plants by Yee-Sun Wu (1969) (2 copies)
Masterpieces of Bonsai by Yoshio Takayanagi (1986)
Masters' Book of Bonsai by Japan Bonsai Association (1986)
Miniature Bonsai by Herb L. Gustafson (1995)
Miniature Bonsai by Kuo-cheng Lin (1995)
Miniature Plants, Indoors and Out by Jack Kramer (1971) (2 copies)
Miniature Trees in the Japanese Style by Gillian E. Severn (1967)
Miniature Trees, Plants and Landscapes by Tatsuo Ishimoto (1956)
National Bonsai Collection Guidebook by John Y. Naka and Yuji Yoshimura (eds.) (1977)
Native Treasures, American Bonsai and Suiseki, Vol. 1 (1973)
New Horizons in Bonsai by Brian Batcelder (1990)
Outstanding American Bonsai, a Photographic Essay on the Works of Fifty American Bonsai Artists by Randy T. Clark (1989)
Penjing – The Chinese Art of Miniature Gardens by Yunhua Hu (1982)
Penjing – Worlds of Wonderment by Qingquan Zhao (1997)
Ponderosa Bonsai by Jackel
Practical Bonsai for Beginners by Kenji Murata (1964)
Practical Gardening in Southern Arizona by the Valley Garden Center (1988)
Saikei – Miniature Living bonsai Landscapes by Herb L. Gustafson (1994)
Saikei and Art – Miniature Landscapes by Lew Buller (2005)
Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature by Toshio Kawamoto (1976) (3 copies)
Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Deserts by Janice Emily Bowers (1993)
Simon & Schuster's Guide to Bonsai by Gianfranco Giorgi (1990)
Successful Bonsai Growing by Peter D. Adams (1988)
Successful Bonsai Shaping by Peter D. Adams (1993)
The Art of Bonsai by Peter D. Adams (1990)

The Art of Indoor Bonsai by John Ainsworth (1989)
The Art of Training Plants by Ernesta Ballard (1962)
The Bonsai Book by Dan Barton (1990)
The Bonsai Book, the definitive illustrated guide by Dan Barton (1989)
The Bonsai Handbook by David Prescott (2001)
The Bonsai of Kimura by Onishi Katsuhito (1992)
The Bonsai Workbook by Herb L. Gustafson (1994)
The Complete Book of Bonsai by Peter Chan (1989)
The Complete Book of Bonsai by Harry Tomlinson (1990)
The Complete Practical Encyclopedia of Bonsai by Ken Norman (2005)
The Creative Art Of Bonsai by Isabelle & Rémy Samson (1986)
The Essential Bonsai by Ken Norman (1998)
The Garden Center Bulletin The Garden Center of Greater Cleveland
The Living Art of Bonsai – Principles and Techniques of Cultivation and Propagation by Amy Liang (1995)
Tray Landscapes (Bonkei and Bonseki) by Soen Yanagisawa (1962)
Understanding Bonsai by Pieter Loubser (1993)

Periodicals for Checking Out

Bonsai by Bonsai Clubs International
Bonsai in California by the California Bonsai Society
Bonsai Journal by the American Bonsai Society
Bonsai Today by Stone Lantern Publishing (just a few issues)
Clippings by the Potomac Bonsai Association (just a few issues)
Golden Statements by the Golden State Bonsai Federation
International Bonsai by International Bonsai Arboretum

Restricted to the Garden Center

Bonsai Masterpieces, compiled by the Japan Bonsai Society, Inc. (1972, in Japanese, with English translation booklet by Yuji Yoshimura)
Bonsai Miniature Potted Trees by Norio Kobayashi (1966)
Bonsai Suiseki Show at Exposition (1970)
Bonsai Techniques by John Naka (1973)
Bonsai Techniques II by John Naka (1982)
Bonsai: The Art of Living Sculpture by Jack Douthitt (2001)
Classic Bonsai of Japan by Nippon Bonsai Association (1989)
Man Lung Artistic Pot Plants by Yee-sun Wu (1969 and 1974 editions)
Matsudaira Mame Bonsai Collection Album (1975, in Japanese)
Memorial Album from the Bonsai and Suiseki Show at Osaka World Exposition (1970, in Japanese)
Miniature Trees and Landscapes by Yuji Yoshimura and Giovanna Halford (1957)
Practical Bonsai for Beginners by Kyuzo Murata (1964)

Satsuki Azalea Bonsai by Kenko Rokkaku (ed.) (1974, in Japanese) (2)
Some of these books and others are also available at the various branches of the Phoenix Public Library and/or at larger bookstores. Borders Books occasionally carries issues of *Bonsai* magazine.

Also, please see our web site for a comprehensive listing of over twelve hundred bonsai (and related art forms) books and magazines in twenty-six languages!

USEFUL BONSAI WEBSITES

These sites may be useful in finding information, tools, pots, books, or plants:

Golden State Bonsai Federation	http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/
Dallas Bonsai.	http://www.dallasbonsai.com/
Stone Lantern	http://www.stonelantern.com/
Wee Tree Farm	http://www.weetree.com/
Brussels Bonsai	http://www.brusselsbonsai.com/



Tokenoma from the PBS 2014 Show, tree owned by Frank Harris



Juniper displayed at the GSBF convention

OTHER CONTACTS

AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY <i>JOURNAL</i> , quarterly publication Barbara Bogan, ABS Executive Secretary P.O. Box 6 Lynnville, IN 47619, U.S.A	\$45 individual \$50 family annually www.absbonsai.org
BONSAI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL <i>BONSAI</i> , quarterly publication BCI Business Office PO Box 40463, Bay Village, OH 44140	\$29 e-membership or \$45 print annually http://bonsai-bci.com
GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION P.O. Box 348 Monterrey, CA 993942	\$25 annually www.gsbfbonsai.org

SELECTED CALIFORNIA BONSAI NURSERIES

CHIKUGO-EN BONSAI NURSERY 18110 S. Western Ave. Gardena, CA 90248	(310) 323-4011
FUJI BONSAI NURSERY 13170 Glenoaks Blvd. Sylmar, CA 91342	(818) 367-5372
KIM'S BONSAI NURSERY 8575-A Phelan Rd. Phelan, CA 92371	(760) 949-7500
KIMURA BONSAI & LANDSCAPE 17230 Roscoe Blvd. Northridge, CA 91325	(818) 343-4090
SAN GABRIEL NURSERY 632 S. San Gabriel Blvd. San Gabriel, CA 91776	(818) 286-0787
WEST AMERICA TRADING COMPANY 4207 Walnut Avenue Chino, CA 91710	(714) 914-7001
YAMAGUCHI BONSAI NURSERY 1905 Sawtelle Blvd. West Los Angeles, CA 90025	(310) 473-5444



Sam Adina working on a bougainvillea during his workshop



Club members on a yamadori dig at Rosemont Canyon

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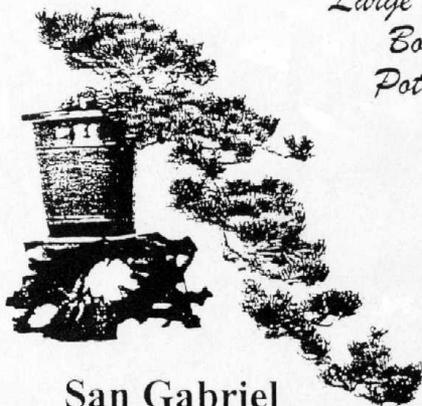
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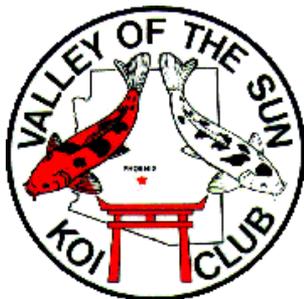
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