

Basic care requirements for Bonsai

Position: You must position bonsai on an elevated bench (a couple of bricks and plank of wood is good) so that bottom branches get plenty of sunlight otherwise they can weaken in vigour and die. A bonsai needs at least 2 hrs of direct sun light a day, Junipers and some other species are happy with no direct sunlight.

The amount of time you have a Bonsai in the sun will vary with size and species.

You can observe where the sun shines during the course of the day, position the bonsai in the most suitable spot.

You can display a bonsai indoors two or three days a week if it is in good condition.

Watering: You must water a Bonsai with a shower spray (watering can or hose application) and move the hose or watering can from side to side so the soil does not get disturbed.

Water must come out of the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot to ensure a thorough soaking. To prevent root rot or over watering don't water again until there is only a bit of moisture left in the soil but do not let it ever let the Bonsai dry out completely (very important).

Check moisture levels in the soil in morning and afternoon and if needed water.

Re-potting /Pruning: Re-pot and root prune when root bound. Signs of a Bonsai being root bound are roots growing out of drainage holes, the tree being very firm and stable in pot and soil coming away from the edge of the pot.

Spring to early autumn is the best time to re-pot , never re-pot in winter!

You can use an old fork with the prongs bent over to make a small rake, untangle and straighten out the roots, rake away about half to two thirds of the old soil and prune the roots back so that the plant fits back into the pot loosely. The size of the pot may need to be upgraded if the Bonsai has grown to big for the existing pot.

Line the bottom of the pot with fresh potting mix, place the bonsai in and fill around the sides with more potting mix, you can lightly work the potting mix into the roots with a chopstick to prevent air pockets.

When you root prune you must also prune the branches. Prune shoots back to one or two leaves, you may also choose to cut some of the branches off or to cut a branch back to shorten it.

Do not be afraid to prune as it invigorates the tree and you will be rewarded with lots of new growth.

Fertilizing: Fertilize every two weeks or every three weeks for older trees with liquid fertiliser (eg sea sol or fish emulsion). You can also make your own by soaking horse or cow manure in a bucket of water.

We wish you have a magical Bonsai experience

Blessings Bonsai Bliss

For any further information or enquiries check out our website BonsaiBliss.com.au or email us at info@BonsaiBliss.com.au or phone (02)67376834