



HOW TO GROW A BONSAI

The oriental art of Bonsai is very well known in the west. It's surrounded by mystery and generates curiosity at first sight. Sometimes this interest just goes away with time, but in some cases, people like to dig deeper and get to know more about this beautiful miniature gardening technique.

But to grow a bonsai it's not only about gardening. It also has a therapeutic value, plus enables patience and fortitude and it's a great activity for relaxing purposes. A bonsai can be with you until the end of your days. In fact, ancient Chinese believed that those who could take care of a miniature tree for a long time got eternity granted for their soul. For them a tree could be the connection between the holy and the human, between heaven and earth.

The first records of people growing bonsais are located in China. However the Japanese are responsible for developing and improving the art as we know it today. Contrary to what most people believe, bonsais are not genetically dwarfed plants, they are kept small by a series of techniques and steps that, if done properly, would allow the tree to live as long as their original specie. Any tree can be grown as a bonsai.

PRUNING AND WIRING

Pruning is one of the ways to create and shape a bonsai. It's very important not to try to change too much the original silhouette of the tree. Pruning must be constant (it's necessary not only to shape but as part of the caring process) and you should have regular spots for it on the tree, to achieve a beautiful and nice bonsai with strong and numerous leaves.

On the other hand, wiring has also been a useful option to grow a bonsai. Shaping angles, generating branches, all this can be done by wiring. However it's very important to do it the right way, because it can be a disaster if not done properly.

As we said before, there are many types of bonsais as there are trees species, so the way you take care of them may differ from one to another. For the watering process you should constantly check the soil of the bonsai and keep it damp and when it gets slightly dry then water it again. It's very important not to flood it.

Position of your Bonsai Plant

Find a nice place for your bonsai. Some miniature trees need at least some direct sunlight on them, others not too much. Check the humidity and temperature of the room where you're planning to put your bonsai and be aware of the needs of the tree of your choice.

When you grow a bonsai, there'll be a point when you'll have to think about taking it from an old pot to a new one, it's called repot. Different species of trees means different repot periods, from 2 to 5 years. *We recommend using a general potting mix when repotting your bonsai.*

Fertilization is also a convenient topic to know. There are many bonsai friendly fertilizers but you can use regular slow release ones as well, but be very careful not to use too much though. Most commercial brands have instructions on how to use them.

Remember to always check for uninvited guest on your bonsai. Your miniature tree is no different from the original one when it comes to fungus, pests or diseases.

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Online Plants NT Acknowledges above reference taken from Grow a bonsai