

WATERING

Bonsai trees are potted to enhance drainage. As long as your Bonsai is receiving adequate light, it is difficult to over water, because there is so little soil to hold water. Check daily and water when the soil feels dry to the touch. Remember that moisture evaporates more rapidly through an unglazed clay pot than through a glazed one. Also, the hotter, drier, and sunnier it is, the more rapidly plants transpire water through their leaves and the faster moisture evaporates from the soil. When you water, soak until the water runs out the drain holes. (Many bonsaiists wait for the runoff to stop and then water again to make sure the soil mix is thoroughly moist.)

LIGHT

Indoors, put your Bonsai in a bright location (east, south or west windows), where it receives filtered light. Do not expose your Bonsai to direct noon or afternoon sun—morning sun is okay. You may also use a grow light.

TEMPERATURE

Indoors, keep at an average temperature, colder at night. 65 – 75 average daytime temperature is good.

FERTILIZER

Give your Bonsai every two weeks during the growing season (spring through fall). Follow the product directions for dilution rates.

INSECTS

Bonsai plants are susceptible to the same insects and diseases as any other indoor plant. Check for insects and disease at least once or twice a month to prevent a serious infestation. If a plant is affected, consult with one of Sky's indoor gardening experts for proper care.

REPOTTING

Your Bonsai will need to be repotted every one to two years. After repotting, keep plant out of direct sun and do not fertilize for 4-6 weeks.

RECOMMENDED READING

The above information is meant only as a general guideline. Individual plants have different needs. For this reason, Sky Nursery recommends that you do further reading.

Recommended books:

Indoor Bonsai, Paul Lesniewicz

Sunset and Ortho series on Bonsai

Any other book that deals with indoor Bonsai and takes you through care easily and clearly

CARMONA MICROPHYLLA

Fukien Tea

Carmona microphylla originates in Southern China and other parts of Southeast Asia. It is tropical. Fukien Tea is evergreen with very small leaves that are dark green and shiny. It has tiny flowers throughout the year if the conditions are warm enough. Small green berries, which will eventually turn dark if they do not fall, can follow the flowers.

EUGENIA UNIFLORA

Surinam Cherry

The Eugenia family is widespread from Brazil to Australia. *E. uniflora* is a sub-tropical also called Surinam Cherry. It is evergreen and has dark ovate leaves. When young the new leaves have a very pleasing bronze color. In the spring Eugenia can have pretty, small, white, cup-shaped flowers, which may be followed by dark red fruit that is edible.

FICUS RETUSA

Ginseng Fig or Indian Laurel

Most of the Ficus family originates in the jungles of Southeast Asia. They are tropical. Ficus is mainly evergreen and grows very fast. With this variety, you could have an old-looking tree after only a few years because it grows aerial root which can be trained down into the soil to give an extremely aged look. *Ficus retusa* is tolerant of medium light.

LIGUSTRUM SINENSE

Chinese Privet

Ligustrum sinense is from the south of China and is tropical. It is evergreen with lovely, shiny green foliage. It blooms at summer time. It can grow aerial roots and become an old-looking tree after only a few years.

SAGERETIA THEEZANS

Chinese Sweet Plum

Sageretia theezans originates in Southern China and is tropical. It is evergreen with small, shiny green leaves that are sometimes an attractive pinkish-brown when young. The outer bark is shed at regular intervals. Sometimes small flowers followed by small blue berries will develop if the tree is left unpruned.

SERISSA SERISSOIDES

Snow Rose

This tree is from China and is a sub-tropical. Serissa is an evergreen, although with low temperatures or sudden changes in atmospheric conditions it can drop its leaves. The leaves should, however, quickly return. Serissa blooms from late spring to summer with small white flowers.

ZELKOVA SCHNEIDERIANA

Schneider's Zelkova

This tree originates in China and is regarded as tender temperate to sub-tropical. When cultivated in a warm and bright area, this tree will remain evergreen. It will, however, drop its leaves if the conditions become darker and colder. Zelkova is a very strong grower, and it can do well in a wide range of growing conditions.