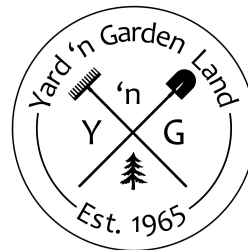


BONSAI CARE



Simple Steps for Healthy Plants



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BONSAI CARE

A bonsai is a lovely addition to the garden. Perfect for the patio, as a focal point on an outdoor table, or in a miniature garden. Follow these steps to keep your bonsai happy, healthy and in great shape for many years.

LOCATION

Your bonsai is an outdoor plant and needs to be kept outside all year. While the variety of your plant may be frost hardy, bonsai tend to be more vulnerable to frost due to their compact root system and small containers. Keep in a location sheltered from cold winds and winter precipitation. We recommend loosely wrapping burlap or bubble wrap around the pot to protect from freezing.

LIGHT

The amount of light your bonsai needs depends on the variety. For plants that prefer full sun, shelter them during the hottest summer days by placing them in an area with indirect sunlight. Direct sun on hot days will dry the soil out quickly. Since the roots are in a small container they can easily overheat causing damage.

WATER

Frequent watering is necessary for bonsai in the summer months. Small containers dry out quickly in warm weather. Never let your bonsai dry out completely. Water when the surface appears dry. Avoid overwatering as well. Too much water will damage the roots. Always check the soil before watering. Apply water gently until it runs through the bottom of the container.

FERTILIZER

Feed bonsai frequently with a water soluble low NPK fertilizer. Use at half strength. For deciduous bonsai, fertilize weekly in the spring and summer. Once leaves fall, stop fertilization in the fall and winter. For conifers fertilize weekly in the spring and summer and once or twice a month in the fall and winter.

TRIMMING & PINCHING

Your bonsai tree has already been trained into the shape you see. All you need to do is maintain its shape. Simply trim and pinch away new growth to the farthest safe point. Never remove all new growth. Leaving a little new growth sustains the health of the tree.

REPOTTING

Repotting your bonsai will encourage a healthy, compact root system. Repot when the roots appear congested and fill the pot. It's a good idea to check the root system annually. Do this by gently pulling the plant out of the pot. If it is rootbound, it is time to repot. The best time to repot is in early spring while the plant is still dormant. Do so by removing the entire plant and soil from the pot. You will need to remove the ¼ outer and bottom most roots. Do this by gently raking soil away from the roots you intend to cut. Take sterilized pruners and carefully clip away the roots. Next, apply a thin layer of gravel to the bottom of the pot for drainage. Next add a layer of soil that will allow the plant to sit at the proper elevation in the pot. Place the plant in a pot and fill space with more

fresh soil making sure there are no air pockets. Water well by submerging the entire plant and pot in a tub of water. You can apply moss or a top cover to prevent soil erosion at watering time.