

[The Ebook Cover – this is not the completed cover, but the Logo art for the cover]



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Introduction

Welcome to the exciting world of Bonsai, pronounced “Bone- Sigh.” The ancient art of Bonsai is a personal experience in sculpting a living treasure.

The term Bonsai originated from the Japanese characters “bon” meaning “tray,” and “sai” meaning “plant.” Bonsai is the term used to describe the visual harmony of the plant and the tray, pot, or dish.

Bonsai are easy to maintain with food, light, and water. Most Bonsai are kept outside and can be kept outdoors in winter. Before you purchase a tree from your garden center, make sure it will survive in your region.



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winters.
tree to

Deciduous trees are hardier than coniferous trees. Deciduous trees retain their foliage year round. Wind passing over the foliage removes moisture from the tree and the foliage may freeze.

This book is crammed with information about Bonsai. It is presented to you with the wishes that you undertake this hobby with enthusiasm and that you enjoy the ever-changing beauty of Bonsai as a living sculpture.

The Major Topics In This Book

- What Are Bonsai?
- Bonsai In Your Home
- Watering — The Most Common Question
- Feeding, Soil & Composts
- Age and Beauty — Lasting Impressions

- Visual Harmony — The Pot And The Plant
- Repotting And Pruning Roots
- Pruning and Trimming Leaves
- Making Bonsai — Propagation, Seeds and Finds
- Protecting Bonsai From Pests And Diseases
- Going Back To The Roots
- Winter Protection
- Frequently Asked Questions About

If you have questions about how to select an you. You will learn how to keep your Bonsai and relaxing.



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ing

If you want to share your hobby with others, consider joining a Bonsai club in your area. Your Bonsai will be a living expression of your talents. You can find more information about the clubs, societies, and forums in [Chapter 15 Bonsai Clubs, Societies And Forums](#).

Bonsai dealers are knowledgeable people who will help you with your Bonsai needs. Most dealers offer classes. Some dealers organise workshops. Ask Bonsai dealers about contact information for local groups.

More Inspiration And Ideas To Plan Your Bonsai Project

Visit the [United States Department of Agriculture](#) website at <http://www.usda.gov/oc/photo/opc-bons.htm>.

Many people have gained a remarkable amount of personal satisfaction by sharing their Bonsai interests with others. This is a wonderful year-round hobby that will forever change the way you view nursery plants and outdoor tree shapes—and even the forces of nature!

Take this book in hand and learn everything you can about Bonsai. Share your interest with your family and friends. Enjoy the Bonsai experience!



- 1 - What Are Bonsai?

The Visual Harmony Of The Plant And The Tray

Bonsai is the term used for the visual harmony of the plant and the tray. People in Japan and China have practiced this fascinating art for centuries. The first known Bonsai was discovered in an ancient temple in China.

Bonsai is the reproduction of trees in miniature form for beauty and value as they mature over years and years.



Your Bonsai's Character



A Bonsai's visual strength and character are exemplified by massive surface roots, a large trunk, interesting bends, shapes and twists and the placement of limbs (even dead ones).

Source: [Bonsai Basics](#)

Perfect Art In The Form Of A Living Sculpture Called Bonsai

The Japanese perfected art in the form of a living sculpture, called Bonsai. They used trees that were dwarfed by nature. Contrary to common belief, Bonsai are not dwarf specimens.

In most cases, if you take a Bonsai tree out of its pot and let it grow, it will reach incredible heights as defined by its genetic makeup. Most fall in the one- to two-foot tall range, but some are t considerably larger.



The Art Of Bonsai Is A Personal Expe

Bonsai is a constantly developing art. You may gain of Bonsai with others.

Bonsai - A Family Member!

Getting started with Bonsai — the art of growing dwarfed, ornamentally shaped trees and shrubs in shallow pots — is pretty simple, explains Raska, who owns a Bonsai nursery in Oklahoma that houses up to 30,000 specimens. Growing Bonsai plants takes commitment, rather than a lot of work. Consequently, he says, people tend to form bonds with their Bonsai.

“If a ficus gets yellow, you chuck it out the door and get another one. But with a bonsai, you may have 10 or 20 years’ worth of effort invested in training and growing that tree. That’s why bonsai plants are handed down

from family member to family member in the Orient: they are precious parts of the family, as much as a pet would be.”

Source: [Bonsai Basics](#)

Let's look at the living art sculpture. You can alter the appearance of your Bonsai by removing a branch. You can allow a branch to develop and give a new angle to your Bonsai. You can use several techniques to change the appearance of your Bonsai. For example, you can prune the roots to make the tree more vigorous. You can wire the tree to alter the position of the branches and make it look older.

Examining The Bonsai — What Makes It Unique?

Here are a few things to keep in mind when you examine what makes a Bonsai unique.

- Bonsai is the visual harmony of the plant and the tray, container, or pot
- The trunk gives the tree its structure. Select a tree with a healthy trunk that has a good taper. The root formation should be healthy and visible at the soil level
- Mature trees naturally have larger branches. Branches at the bottom of the tree are full and thick. As the branches near the top of the tree, they become lighter and the branches are more horizontal.
- The open areas on the trunk increase near the top of the tree. Keep the Bonsai look like a tree rather than a shrub
- Bonsai become more appealing as they age. If you want to make your Bonsai look older, you can wire down the young branches to encourage them to settle into specific positions and give the impression of age. Areas of dead wood give Bonsai the impression of age



A Few Words Of Advice — Getting Started

Bonsai are beautiful, but remember, it takes time and patience to be successful with Bonsai. Here are a few words of advice for newcomers.

- ❶ Mistakes happen. Everyone makes mistakes. You will make mistakes and you may make lots of them. Don't worry, you will learn from your mistakes and someday you may help others in their Bonsai hobby
- ❷ Trees die. You could do everything possible for the tree but it may still die. Don't give up. Learn what caused your tree to die and learn what you can do to keep your next tree healthy. The information in this book will be an invaluable guide to you.
- ❸ It is preferable to grow your Bonsai outdoors. If you try to keep your Bonsai indoors, it will die. There are a few plants that make excellent Bonsai and can survive indoors, but for the most part, your Bonsai will be better off outside
- ❹ Join a Bonsai society or a club in your area. You will have access to people who will support you in your efforts. Most clubs have shows, guest speakers, and workshops. You will learn quick tricks and tips on how to grow Bonsai. You will get a chance to see the Bonsai creations of other members. Bonsai members have lots of advice and provide fantastic support. One day, you may want to display your Bonsai at your local club
- ❺ Bonsai need care. They need food, water, and nutrition. You will need to prune the roots and remove foliage and branches. If you ignore the tree, it will die. You need to allow time in your busy schedule to care for your Bonsai
- ❻ Bonsai take years to grow. Give your Bonsai time to grow
- ❼ Select one or two plants and get to know them before you increase your Bonsai collection of plants
- ❽ Good luck with your Bonsai hobby. Sculpting is a rewarding and pleasing experience for you

