

Date: Wed, 12 Aug 1992 16:53:48 -0400  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: Janice Ritter x5444 <ritter@FLOYD.HQ.ILEAF.COM >  
Subject: Mugo Pine  
In-Reply-To: dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU's message of Wed,  
12 Aug 1992 15:55:14 -0500 <9208122009.AA18132@relay1.UU.NET >

I'd also like some info on Mugo pines - please post the info here! (I just picked up a 4-5 yr.old Mugo for \$6.00, too!)

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1992 08:39:12 EDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: HALLRL@MOREKYPR.BITNET  
Subject: Black Pines

I posted this piece of mail to the old list address last week, so after I talked with Dan and found out I needed to resubscribe to this address I thought I should repost it. Has anyone been keeping an archive over the past couple of weeks? If so, let me know because I would like to see what has been posted the last few weeks, Thanx. I also found some really good articles on buttonwood which I'll post later for those interested.

#### Japanese Black Pines:

To reduce needle size, pinch back the week candles in spring and thin out some of the needles on the strong candles. A couple of weeks later, the buds in the week areas will begin growing, at this point cut the strong candles back to 1/8th of an inch. A month after that the buds will be elongating, at this point thin out the week buds in the week areas of growth and thin out the strong buds from the strong areas of growth. Leave 2 buds in the strong areas and three to four buds in the week areas. In October when old needles are turning red, use tweezers to remove the old needles and thin out some of the younger needles.

To get a more detailed description, see Bonsai Today issue 2. I've just finished reading a great article by Kusida Matsuo on how to enlarge trunks and nebari on young black pines in a matter of several years, see Bonsai Today issue 20. Mr. Matsuo is taking young black pines and planting them in a

plastic colander filled with sand and clay (akadama) and them giving them large amounts of slow release fertilizer. Watering is required three to four times a day and the plants should be placed in full sun. In a matter of five years he has a tree that appears to be 20+ years of age, he is getting some amazing results with this process.

Keith, I've tried sending you mail but I keep getting a message from the postmaster at INTAUD.USU.EDU that user KEITH does not exist on that system. Do you have any idea what the problem is? I've tried sending to keith@intaud.usu.edu

Later Rando

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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1992 07:54:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Past articles on Bonsai network.

Hi Rando:

I'm very interest in anything you have on buttonwoods. I also have every message received on the network. If you can give me the dates you were off the network I can send you the articles.

Have you tried to send anything direct to me recently? It bugs me that you cannot send anything to me at KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU. That address is used by Janice Ritter to send items that she doesn't want to post to the network. I don't know what is wrong. Have you tried to use the LISTSERV command REVIEW to see what address is listed for me?

Thanks for posting the article on Black Pines. I'm also going to use the technique on my Mugos.

Keith

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Keith Sedgwick           ###       Bonsai is not a race because  
KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU   ##.####    there is no finish line.  
                         #.#####.###

Happy Growing.  
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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1992 08:57:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Mugo Pines

Janice, Dan and Others::

I have three Mugo Pines. They make a VERY good bonsai. The needles are much shorter than the Black Pines. The ones I have as bonsai were purchased as nursery stock about 13+ years ago and have survived very well.

Our local bonsai guru says they will develop a better trunk and nebrai(sp?) if you plant them in the ground. He recommends planting them on top of a flat rock or piece of tile. You practically have to wash all the old soil off the roots to do this correctly. You might want to wait until spring to try this. I don't know if they would survive the winter if you do it now. You place the trunk right in the middle of the tile or flat rock and spread the roots out and over the edge of the tile. You then cover the roots with a little soil. I would imagine just deep enough to cover them and keep them from drying out. The roots will spread out and grow horizontally until the edge of the tile and then turn down. This improves how the roots develop and spread out.

My mugos have never been in the ground. They have been in bonsai pots all the time. I have a hard time enjoying bonsai planted in the ground. I know you should do it since they develop faster, but I like to look at my trees each day. I tend to forget them while they are in the ground.

When you select a mugo for a bonsai make sure you look at the needles and the overall growth pattern. There is a big difference between mugos. I have 12 or 13 planted around my house as foundation plantings. Some have needles about 2" long and others are only about 1" long. Some mugos tend to be very good branchers and send out branches very close together. (Short internodes) Others tend to be leggy, even though they are in full sun.

They are very hardy. I have never lost any of them due to cold weather. Sometimes during the winter the temperature goes down to -30 to -35F. They are covered with snow all winter, so I'm sure that helps them survive. The needles will burn if exposed to the sun and wind during the winter.

Here is the annual routine I follow:

As pines they need fast draining soil. I let mine get quite dry before I water them. I'm a "poke a finger in the pot tester" before I water any of

my trees. When I poke a finger in the pot it has to be dry down at least 3/4+ inch before I water them. Here in Utah I have to water once a day when the temperature gets 95-100F. When its not quite so hot, I can get by watering once every other day.

I repot, prune and wire them in the spring. I repot them every other year while they are developing. You want to encourage a lot of good growth. I think I'll now extend my repotting time to every 4 or 5 years, since they are starting to look pretty good.

I think I over fertilize all my trees. When I was growing up, my mon said I followed the old saying "if a little bit is good, a lot is better." I guess I haven't change since then. I fertilize all my trees once a week when they are in the development stage. I use Peters 20-20-20, MirAcid, Miracle Grow, Rapid Grow, and Rapid Grow Bloom Booster. Sometimes I also use some of the Fertiloam fertilizers. I use a different fertilizer each week. (This is a Keith's bonsai quirk -- I think if any of my trees are lacking a micro-nutrient they have a better chance of filling that need if I use a different fertilizer each week.)

I start fertilizing in the spring and continue each week until the first of September. Oh! I almost forgot, I also use a fertilizer cake I make each spring. They are organic and replaced once a month. They are made with cotton seed meal, fish emulsion, bone meal, blood meal, Superthrive, Peters 20-20-20 and some iron. In September I switch to AlaskaFish Emulsion Bloom Stimulator, 0-10-10. I continue to use the fish emulsion right up until we start getting a frost every night. When it starts to freeze I put the trees into a deep cold frame for the winter.

As you can see I \*love\* to fertilize. I'm going to have to cut back on some of my older trees. I think they would be healthier if I wouldn't use so much fertilizer. My trees reflect my attitude -- HATE TO DIET!

If I think of anything else on my mugs I'll sent you a post.

Keith

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Keith Sedgwick                   ###        Bonsai is not a race because  
KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU       ##.####        there is no finish line.  
                                 #.#####.###

Happy Growing.            \_||\_             
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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1992 08:55:00 MDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: The Shadow <THESHADO@CORRAL.UWYO.EDU >  
Subject: Hibiscus & relatives

Does anyone have any experience with Hibiscus or any of its relatives, such as Rose of Sharon? I have a Rose of Sharon that I think will make a nice bonsai, but I also kind of want to try it with a Hibiscus. However, Hibiscus have very large leaves -- does anyone have any idea how small one could realistically get a Hibiscus' leaves to dwarf?

Kirk Haines  
theshado@outlaw.uwyo.edu

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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1992 09:13:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
Subject: Re: informative updates

Kirk says:

Just some odds and ends I've noticed about the growth and care of some of my experimental bonsai:

(1 deleted)

2) Russian Olive trees don't do well as indoor bonsai. They survive, but they don't flourish.

If you want to try an olive indoors you might want to purchase a *Olea europaea* "Little Ollie". I purchased one this spring from a bonsai nursery in Salt Lake City. So far it is doing very well. The nurseryman left a lot of suckers growing around the base of the trunk. He said it develops a thick trunk much faster if you let it grow wild for a few years. He even said you could plant it in the ground during summer.

The nurseryman said they will do very well as an indoor bonsai. Indoors they need a southern window where they get a lot of light. I paid about \$75 for a five gallon size, so they aren't cheap. Next spring I'll let you know how it survived the winter.

(3 deleted)

Keith

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Keith Sedgwick           ###       Bonsai is not a race because  
 KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU   ##.####     there is no finish line.  
                           #.#####.###

Happy Growing.        |\_---\_|   ||   —  
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Date:        Thu, 13 Aug 1992 09:19:00 -0600  
 Reply-To:   Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
 Sender:     Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
 From:       Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
 Subject:    Re:    Hibiscus & relatives

Kirk says:

Does anyone have any experience with Hibiscus or any of its relatives, such as Rose of Sharon? I have a Rose of Sharon that I think will make a nice bonsai, but I also kind of want to try it with a Hibiscus. However, Hibiscus have very large leaves -- does anyone have any idea how small one could realistically get a Hibiscus' leaves to dwarf?

I think I remember the bonsai nurseryman in Salt Lake City has some Hibiscus as bonsai. When we have our club meeting on the 26th of this month I'll ask him, if I can remember. You might want to "jab" my memory with a post around that time.

Keith

.....

Keith Sedgwick           ###       Bonsai is not a race because  
 KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU   ##.####     there is no finish line.  
                           #.#####.###

Happy Growing.        |\_---\_|   ||   —  
                           |\_---\_|   ||   —

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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1992 12:39:59 -0400  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: Janice Ritter x5444 <ritter@FLOYD.HQ.ILEAF.COM >  
Subject: informative updates  
In-Reply-To: Keith Sedgwick's message of Thu,  
13 Aug 1992 09:13:00 -0600 <9208131522.AA00986@relay2.UU.NET >

I bought a "Little Ollie" late this past spring. It's in a southern exposure window, its original small, tall pot. I pruned it back pretty hard 'cause it was all leggy. It's doing better than some of my other plants, which are not doing well at my new apartment.

It's seems pretty happy. I think I'll plant it in a wider pot and let it go for a year to encourage some better root and trunk expansion.

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Thu, 13 Aug 1992 23:40:28 EDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: HALLRL@MOREKYPR.BITNET  
Subject: Buttonwood

Buttonwood:

Suggested soil mixes are:

- 1) 1 part potting soil, 1 part coarse sand
- 2) 1 part chick grit, 1 part peat, 1 part pine bark mulch
- 3) 1 part coarse sand, 1 part crushed lava rock, 1 part peat, 1 part pinebark mulch

Watering is determined by the soil you use. Water several times a day with a coarse mix, and if you only water once a day add more lava rock and peat. If night time temperatures go below 60, bring the buttonwood indoors. During the winter place a tray of pebbles and water on a radiator and place the buttonwood on the pebbles. I have heard of heated pads that you can buy to keep roots warm in case you don't have a radiator. If you have grow lights as a part of your indoor setup, the buttonwood does well on 14 to 16 hours. DO NOT prune all foliage from branches and twigs. Do prune back to one set of leaves and pinch new growth during the growing season. Wire with care and check wire often

since the twigs and branches grow quickly. Check out issues Summer 1989 and Autumn 1989 of World Tropical Bonsai Forum for some excellent suggestions and information.

How do those of you with Chinese Elms winterize your bonsai?

Rando

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Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1992 07:10:38 -0400  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: Bill Walther <bwalther@CCS.CARLETON.CA >  
Subject: Re: Winter protection  
In-Reply-To: <9208140419.AA06400.6400@alfred.ccs.carleton.ca > ; from "Janice Ritter x5444" at Aug 13, 92 12:39 pm

I would be interested in advice on winter storage of plants, especially those which are not winter hardy in our area. My pines, juniper, and cedars do fine in a coldframe covered with snow, but last year I lost a very nice California Live Oak which I tried to keep inside in a sunny window in a cool room. Perhaps I didn't water it enough. Perhaps there was not enough humidity (a problem in winter here in the frozen north). Any ideas?

--  
bwalther@ccs.carleton.ca (Bill Walther)  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

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Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1992 09:14:16 -0500  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU  
Subject: Re: Past articles on Bonsai network.

Currently only the discussions from the month of August are available. I have yet to be able to get my Unix based archive loaded onto the IBM in such a way as to have it available in the database (mostly because I haven't had time). You can search the archive by sending the following stuff (minus the > signs) as a mail message to [LISTSERV@WAYNEST1](mailto:LISTSERV@WAYNEST1), or [LISTSERV@CMS.CC.WAYNE.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@CMS.CC.WAYNE.EDU). BTW the whatever part can include things from the header of the message. In particular, you can use the date that a message would have been sent. Just note that the format for the date is 'Day, Date Mon Year' See below for example.

> // JOB ECHO=YES



```
> DATABASE SEARCH DD=RULES CPULIM=99:00 OUTLIM=2000
> //RULES DD *
> SEARCH 'whatever' IN BONSAI
> INDEX
> PRINT
```

When I sent this to LISTSERV with buttonwood in place of whatever I got back the following:

```
> > SEARCH 'buttonwoods' IN bonsai
> --> Database BONSAI, 1 hit.
>
> > INDEX
> Item #   Date   Time   Recs   Subject
> -----  ----  -
> 000025 92/08/13 07:54   31   Past articles on Bonsai network.
>
> > PRINT
> > > > Item number 25, dated 92/08/13 07:54:00 -- ALL
> Date:      Thu, 13 Aug 1992 07:54:00 -0600
> Reply-To:   Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
> Sender:     Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
> From:       Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>
> Subject:    Past articles on Bonsai network.
>
> Hi Rando:
>
> I'm very interest in anything you have on buttonwoods. I also have
> every message received on the network. If you can give me the dates you
> were off the network I can send you the articles.
>
> Have you tried to send anything direct to me recently? It bugs me that
> you cannot send anything to me at KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU. That address is used
> by Janice Ritter to send items that she doesn't want to post to the network.
> I don't know what is wrong. Have you tried to use the LISTSERV command
> REVIEW to see what address is listed for me?
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> Thanks for posting the article on Black Pines. I'm also going to use
> the technique on my Mugos.
>
> Keith
>
> .....
>
> Keith Sedgwick          ###      Bonsai is not a race because
> KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU    ##.####  there is no finish line.
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help!!!  
Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1992 09:09:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Little Ollie

I bought a "Little Ollie" late this past spring. It's in a southern exposure window, its original small, tall pot. I pruned it back pretty hard 'cause it was all leggy. It's doing better than some of my other plants, which are not doing well at my new apartment.

It's seems pretty happy. I think I'll plant it in a wider pot and let it go for a year to encourage some better root and trunk expansion.

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

Hi Janice:

How are you this morning? At the nursery where I got my "Little "Ollie the guy said this tree likes to send up a lot of suckers at the base of the trunk. He said to let them grow wild. Let them get about 1.5 to 2 feet long and then cut them back to a stub about 1-2 inches long. New suckers will sprout from the stub. He said this will thicken the trunk very fast. When the trunk is fat enough, you can clean up the base of the tree by cutting off all the stubs flush with the trunk.

I also purchase mine last spring. What size is yours? Mine is in a black plastic 5-gal container about 1.5 feet tall and growing very well. It is sitting outside in full sun. The nurseryman said to let it stay in the plastic container. It will grow faster in this container than in a bonsai pot because it has more soil and room. I don't know how long I can keep it in the 5-gal container. It is so darn ugly, growing wild and in the plastic can. I think I'll let it go this winter and put it in a bonsai pot next spring. Keep me posted on how your is doing. Thanks.

Keith

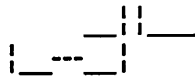
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Keith Sedgwick                   ###           Bonsai is not a race because

KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU      ##.###      there is no finish line.

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Happy Growing.



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Date:            Fri, 14 Aug 1992 09:51:00 -0600  
Reply-To:        Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender:          Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From:            Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
Subject:         Re:        Buttonwood

Buttonwood:

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How do those of you with Chinese Elms winterize your bonsai?

Rando

Hi Rando:

Boy, did I luck out. I used soil mix 1) for my buttonwood. I made an educated guess based on what Mary Madison had it planted in. It looked like it was quite humusy, staying damp, but not being water logged. I'm letting

the branches and twigs grow wild, since I need more growth to balance the design. Do you think that is OK? When do you wire the new growth? I hesitate to wire this years growth since it looks quite tender and I don't want to break off the new growth I need for branch placement. Any ideas would be helpful.

I have an informal upright chinese elm, and a forest of 15 Seuji Elms. The elms used in the forest were in individual pots last year. I wintered them over in a deep cold frame. The cold frame is about 5 feet deep, 4 feet wide and 6-7 feet long. It is made out of redwood and is covered by a wooden lid wrapped in heavy clear plastic. I have to replace the plastic every year since because the sun rots it during the summer. The snow covers the whole thing in the winter and helps insulate the trees and keep them from freezing. It stays so humid inside the frame that I do not have to water the trees all winter long.

I put most of my trees in the cold frame during the winter. I ran out of room last year, so I buried a couple of my pines, a crab apple and a juniper in the garden. This was the first year I left some trees out of the cold frame. When it snowed I went out and shoveled snow over them to keep the sun off them during the day. I've got some mugos planted around my house and if they get exposed to the sun in the winter they will burn. I guess the roots are frozen and cannot supply enough water to keep the needles from drying out in the sun.

I rolled an old round wooden picnic table over close to where I buried them to provide shade so the snow wouldn't melt. They survived OK and are doing just fine. I'm going to have to decide what trees to leave out of the cold frame this year. Each year I add new trees but forget to add storage room. Do any of you have the same problem? Ha Ha.

Thanks again for info on buttonwoods. I need to find a copy of the magazines. Any suggestions on where I can get a copy? Thanks.

Keith

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Keith Sedgwick                   ###           Bonsai is not a race because  
KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU           ##.####           there is no finish line.  
                                  #.#####..###

Happy Growing.            \_||\_  
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Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1992 10:06:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Winter protection

I would be interested in advice on winter storage of plants, especially those which are not winter hardy in our area. My pines, juniper, and cedars do fine in a coldframe covered with snow, but last year I lost a very nice California Live Oak which I tried to keep inside in a sunny window in a cool room. Perhaps I didn't water it enough. Perhaps there was not enough humidity (a problem in winter here in the frozen north). Any ideas?

--  
bwalther@ccs.carleton.ca (Bill Walther)  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

Hi Bill:

I just posted some information on how I winter over some of my tender trees so I won't repost it here. I don't know about a California Live Oak, I've never had one. You said you lost the Live Oak. Did you buy another one?

I had a Texas Ebony that wasn't doing very well indoors last winter. I finally used that very thin plastic bag the dry cleaners put over clothes. I put the Texas Ebony in the plastic bag and tied the top closed with a "twisty" wire. It started to grow and got all new leaves on it. It was very humid inside the bag. I guess you could use this method on other trees. You can't enjoy them very well. They don't look very good wrapped up in a plastic bag but they stayed alive.

My buttonwood wasn't doing very well last year either. I gave up trying to keep it warm and humid over a tray of pebbles and water. I finally boarded it in a greenhouse at the local bonsai nursery. The owner only charged my \$5.00 to keep it from November through April. I thought that was VERY reasonable. If you have any questions, please let me know and I'll add my 2 cents. Thanks.

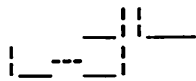
Keith

.....

Keith Sedgwick                   ###           Bonsai is not a race because  
KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU           ##.####       there is no finish line.

#.#####.###

Happy Growing.



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Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1992 12:30:39 -0500  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU  
Subject: Re: Buttonwood

> I rolled an old round wooden picnic table over close to where I buried  
> them to provide shade so the snow wouldn't melt. They survived OK and are  
> doing just fine. I'm going to have to decide what trees to leave out of the  
> cold frame this year. Each year I add new trees but forget to add storage  
> room. Do any of you have the same problem? Ha Ha.  
>

I was just going to ask a similar question. I am just now thinking of setting up a deep cold frame, but want to know how deep to make it. Also, I have some 2x8 redwood planks leftover from a small deck that I ripped out recently and was planning on using them to make the sides. Any comments? With the way this summer has been I expect winter to come blowing in around september 1 and so would like to get started on this soon. As a side note, I was talking with a friend of mine at a meeting yesterday. He recently returned from a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. An employee at a hotel that he stayed at remarked to him that this has been one of the mildest winters he can remember ;-). Another friend who lives in Houghton Michigan was somewhat dismayed to hear that it was only 34F the previous night. Too bad, his garden was finally starting to do something.

That's all from Michigan Folks...

Dan

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Date: Fri, 14 Aug 1992 10:36:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: juniper help

Janice says:

I'm depressed. I started my bonsai interests early this past

spring. In my last apartment, they were thriving - doing beautifully! I moved in July, and now most of them are in trouble.

Oh Janice, I know just how you feel. I hate to discourage you but before we built our house and I had a permanent place to keep my bonsai, I lost a lot of new bonsai I was trying to grow. It is very difficult to keep them alive when you move from apartment to apartment. I think it can be done but it takes a lot of tender care.

Of major concern is small juniper in a training pot (not a bonsai pot). It was in a southern exposure window for 6 weeks, doing just fine. The southern exposure gets obstructed by shadows from the building for part of the day, so this juniper was probably getting 8 hours sunlight/day. It's living in the "bonsai soil mix" it came in from the bonsai nursery. I water it every other day or so (just check the soil).

It suddenly started to look sick. It looks crisped, but its soil is still a little moist from the last time I watered it. It has brown on one branch and some yellowing, but most is still green. The green isn't a "happy" green, tho - it looks dry, like its shriveling. I snapped off the brown tip today. Looks like more of the inside of that branch is brown.

Have you checked for red spider mites? They \*love\* junipers. Are the inside of the branches turning yellow and then brown; or does it start from the tips and work in? I had a Japanese Garden Juniper that wasn't doing very well last year. It was dying inside and not getting new growth. It looked sick and very poorly. I took it to the local bonsai nursery and he said it wasn't getting enough light and air inside.

I sometimes wait too long to cut off a branch that I wonder if I should keep. Once you cut it off, it is very hard to glue it back on. Ha Ha. Well we cut about half of the branches off and wired them so they would not be directly over one another. It was very hard for me to do. I had the tree for some time and didn't want to lose it. I've heard said, "that you have to leave enough room between the branches for the birds to fly through." Well this tree was so over grown a humming bird couldn't have gotten through. It is doing very well this year. It is getting all new growth and looks very healthy and green.

Hope this helps. Let me know what else I can do for you. Thanks.

Keith



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Keith Sedgwick                   ###           Bonsai is not a race because  
 KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU       ##.####       there is no finish line.  
                                  #.#####.###

Happy Growing.

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Date:           Fri, 14 Aug 1992 11:07:00 -0600  
 Reply-To:      Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
 Sender:        Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
 From:          Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
 Subject:       Dan's cold frame.

- > I rolled an old round wooden picnic table over close to where I buried
- > them to provide shade so the snow wouldn't melt. They survived OK and are
- > doing just fine. I'm going to have to decide what trees to leave out of the
- > cold frame this year. Each year I add new trees but forget to add storage
- > room. Do any of you have the same problem? Ha Ha.
- >

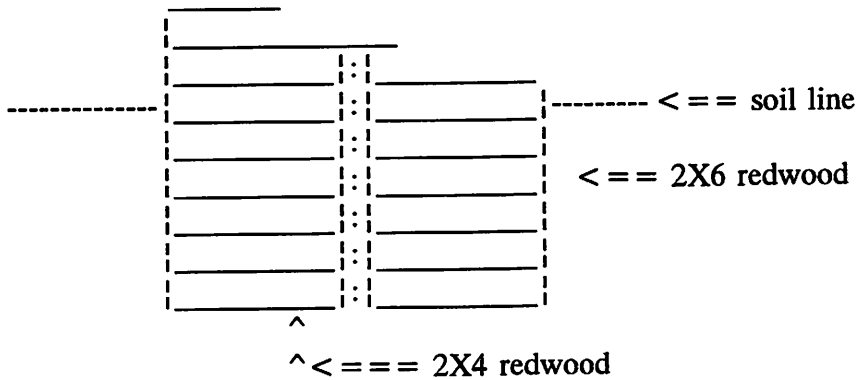
I was just going to ask a similar question. I am just now thinking of setting up a deep cold frame, but want to know how deep to make it. Also, I have some 2x8 redwood planks leftover from a small deck that I ripped out recently and was planning on using them to make the sides. Any comments? With the way this summer has been I expect winter to come blowing in around september 1 and so would like to get started on this soon. As a side note, I was talking with a friend of mine at a meeting yesterday. He recently returned from a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. An employee at a hotel that he stayed at remarked to him that this has been one of the mildest winters he can remember ;-). Another friend who lives in Houghton Michigan was somewhat dismayed to hear that it was only 34F the previous night. Too bad, his garden was finally starting to do something.

That's all from Michigan Folks...

Dan

Hi Dan:

I'll get the exact measurements this weekend and post them Monday. I used redwood 2X4's and 2X6's. I built a big box like below:



This is a crude attempt to show you the outside end of the cold frame. The back end is 6-8" higher than the front. The 2X4's are on the soil side so the inside of the box is smooth. We built a deck and I had all this redwood lumber left over so I made this big box with no bottom. In the bottom of the hole I put about 8" of pea gravel. This helps the drainage. I have had a problem with slugs during the winter. I usually put some slug bait in the bottom of the frame before I set my trees down for the winter. I forgot to do this last year so they ate some of the moss and and fed off some of the leaves that finally dropped off the trees. I've already bought the slug bait and I'll get those litte "buggers" this year. I feel like Bill Murray in Caddy Shack! Chasing all the gophers (slugs) around the golf course.

I'll talk to you Monday.

Keith

.....

Keith Sedgwick                   ###           Bonsai is not a race because  
 KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU           ##.####           there is no finish line.  
                                   #.#####..###

Happy Growing.

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Date:           Fri, 14 Aug 1992 12:23:07 -0400  
 Reply-To:       Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>

Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Janice Ritter x5444 <ritter@FLOYD.HQ.ILEAF.COM>  
Subject: Buttonwood  
In-Reply-To: Keith Sedgwick's message of Fri,  
14 Aug 1992 09:51:00 -0600 <9208141602.AA16518@relay1.UU.NET>

> The elms used in the forest were in individual pots last year. I  
> wintered them over in a deep cold frame. The cold frame is about 5  
> feet deep, 4 feet wide and 6-7 feet long.

I live in a townhouse, and have no land to a.) build a cold frame  
and b.) bury trees. Anybody have wintering suggestions?  
When I bought most of my trees, I had a garage to use for this.  
My new place doesn't have a garage. :( I do have a basement that  
won't be heated, but it's dark. Is this OK? The bonsai nursery  
mentioned that for small trees, the fridge is a good place for  
6-8 weeks!

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Mon, 17 Aug 1992 10:42:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Winter storage

> The elms used in the forest were in individual pots last year. I  
> wintered them over in a deep cold frame. The cold frame is about 5  
> feet deep, 4 feet wide and 6-7 feet long.

I live in a townhouse, and have no land to a.) build a cold frame  
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mentioned that for small trees, the fridge is a good place for  
6-8 weeks!

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

Hi Janice:

I'm sorry I didn't get to your messages until today. I wasn't at work

Friday afternoon. I had to go to juvenile court with my oldest son. I don't know if anyone on the network has teenagers, but sometimes they "ain't" to smart. Not like us when we were that age.

Did you have a nice weekend? Mine was great. I worked on my trees all day Saturday. My wife went to a church meeting Saturday morning, my little girl was up late and she slept in until my wife got home, my youngest son slept over to a friend's house and didn't come home to about 1:00 pm, and my oldest son was to football practice. This left practically all day for me to "putter" around with my trees. It was fun. I wasn't even bothered by the phone. I was outside and if it rang I pretended I didn't hear it. Hope it wasn't the Publishers Clearing House calling. Ha! Ha!

I'm looking toward our fall bonsai show in September, so I did some work now for the show. I pinched back the new growth on my Nana procumbens juniper. The month to a month and a half of growing time, until the show, will let it recover and start to grow again. This is the first time I've had any trees in a show, so I don't have a real schedule to follow and I'm kinda' experimenting. I also thinned out a multi-trunk Japanese boxwood. I might also include that tree in a show. I've got to find something to set the pots on for the show. I'm finding out the price of decent bonsai table is more than a pot. If anyone has some ideas for stands please post them for all to read.

Boy, I wish I had some experience storing trees in a basement. I kept a few of mine in a basement window well once, that was before I had my cold frame and they did OK. I covered the top of the window well with plastic to keep the temperature a little more constant. I know that once a tree goes dormant it does not need light. So I don't think you need to worry about the light. I think the problem would be to keep them dormant. I know before we finished our basement and had the heat on downstairs it would stay relative warm. I would gess 50-55 degrees. I don't know if that would be cold enough to hold a tree dormant. Also, another probable of storing them in a basement is some trees like a crab apple need a certain amount of freezing temperatures in order to flower the next year. I'm not sure on other species like pines and junipers. Maybe someone on the network will know.

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Date: Mon, 17 Aug 1992 12:30:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Winter storage - again.

OOPS! - I hit the send button my mistake and sent the first message before I finished. Please forgive me for duplicating it again but I still had a few

"pearls" of wisdom to expound on.

- > The elms used in the forest were in individual pots last year. I
- > wintered them over in a deep cold frame. The cold frame is about 5
- > feet deep, 4 feet wide and 6-7 feet long.

I live in a townhouse, and have no land to a.) build a cold frame and b.) bury trees. Anybody have wintering suggestions?

When I bought most of my trees, I had a garage to use for this.

My new place doesn't have a garage. :( I do have a basement that won't be heated, but it's dark. Is this OK? The bonsai nursery mentioned that for small trees, the fridge is a good place for 6-8 weeks!

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

Hi Janice:

I'm sorry I didn't get to your messages until today. I wasn't at work Friday afternoon. I had to go to juvenile court with my oldest son. I don't know if anyone on the network has teenagers, but sometimes they "ain't" to smart. Not like us when we were that age.

Did you have a nice weekend? Mine was great. I worked on my trees all day Saturday. My wife went to a church meeting Saturday morning, my little girl was up late and she slept in until my wife got home, my youngest son slept over to a friend's house and didn't come home to about 1:00 pm, and my oldest son was to football practice. This left practically all day for me to "putter" around with my trees. It was fun. I wasn't even bothered by the phone. I was outside and if it rang I pretended I didn't hear it. Hope it wasn't the Publishers' Clearing House calling. Ha! Ha!

Sunday, I took a roll of slide film to the store to get developed. Most of the roll was slides of my trees. I think it is fun to take a picture now and again. You don't realize how trees change and grow from year to year until you can compare an old picture with a new one. I think you can make prints from slides, so if they turn out ok would you like me to send you some? Please let me know.

I'm looking toward our fall bonsai show in September, so I did some work now for the show. I pinched back the new growth on my Nana procumbens juniper. The month, to a month and a half of growing time until the show, will let it recover and start to grow again. This is the first time I've had any trees in a show, so I don't have a real schedule to follow and I'm kinda'

experimenting. I also thinned out a multi-trunk Japanese boxwood. I might also include that tree in the show. I've got to find some display stands. I'm learning the price of decent bonsai tables can be more than a good pot.

(If anyone has some ideas as to what you can use for display stands, please let me know.)

Boy, I wish I had some experience storing trees in a basement. I kept a few of mine in a basement window well once, that was before I had my cold frame and they did OK. I covered the top of the window well with plastic to keep the temperature a little more constant. I know that once a tree goes dormant it does not need light. So I don't think you need to worry about the light in your basement. I think the problem would be keeping them dormant. I know before we finished our basement and had the heat on downstairs it would stay relative warm. I would guess 50-55 degrees. I don't know if that would be cold enough to hold a tree dormant. Also, another probable of storing them in a basement is some trees like a crab apple need a certain number of days below freezing in order to flower the next year. I'm not sure on other species like pines and junipers. Maybe someone on the network will know.

I've heard you can use a refrigerator to store trees. Again, I have never used one so can't get very specific. I think a refrigerator that doesn't have an automatic defrost would be best, if you can still find one. Also, I think you would have a problem of dehydrating the trees you store for any length of time. I know if you leave an apple uncovered in a refrigerator it doesn't take long for it to become shriveled and dehydrated. Maybe you could put them in a large plastic bag with a twisty tie. I don't have any idea how long you can keep them stored that way. Maybe someone else on the network has had some experience, and they will let us know.

Well, I guess I had better go to lunch, its noon and I need to go home and check on my trees. We have been having a HOT, DRY summer and I've been going home for lunch to check on my trees. Will talk to you later.

Keith

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Keith Sedgwick                   ###           Bonsai is not a race because  
KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU       ##.####       there is no finish line.  
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Happy Growing.            \_||\_             
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Date: Mon, 17 Aug 1992 13:49:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
Subject: Dan's cold frame.

Hi Dan:

Just got back from lunch and I've got the measurements for my deep cold frame. It is 4'6" deep, 4' wide and 6' long. I remember last year when I got my trees out of the cold frame, it looked like the tops of a couple of my Japanese maples had been nipped by frost. Two of them are about 3+ feet from the bottom of the pot to the top of the tree. This would only put them about 1 1/2 feet from the lid. The frost could have come that deep before it gets fully covered by a good snow storm. Living where you do and the cold weather you have, you might want to make it a little bit deeper.

Let me know if you need any more information.

Keith

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Date: Mon, 17 Aug 1992 15:47:44 EDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: "Matthew Simpson" <054340@ACADVM1.UOTTAWA.CA >  
Subject: height of trees

What is the range of your tree heights?

I have started a collection of trees. Being new to this hobby, I have not seen many "live" bonsai. In the first year of growth, I have been pruning my trees right at about a foot tall. I have ficus b. in general. After having read the list and seen a few photos here, and chuckled at some of the imitation bonsai in the malls, I've gotten the sense that these trees can be trained at taller heights (2-3 feet).

I'd really like to hear from all of you on this one.

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| \_ 1 \_ \* Matthew Simpson \* BITNET: |  
| \\_1\_/ \* School of Psychology \* 054340@uottawa.bitnet |  
| 1 \* 145 Jean Jacques Lussier \* INTERNET: |  
| 1 \* Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8P5 \* 054340@acadvm1.uottawa.ca |  
O=====