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Date: Mon, 17 Aug 1992 15:24:00 -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: 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 |

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Hi Matt:

I was just going to get out of e-mail and get a little bit of work done when I saw your message and thought I would respond first, and then work.

There are some specific Japanese names for different sizes of bonsai. I don't know all of them. I know a "mame" is a very small bonsai. I don't know what the range is, but were talking several inches. Another name is "shogin" or something like that. It is a little bit larger. I don't know any more names. I bet there is someone on the network that has them memorized.

The smallest bonsai I have is a geranium I planted two years ago. It is about 2" tall. I also have a small rosemary, about 4" tall. The tallest ones I have are probably my two Japanese maples. They are about 3' tall. All of the rest of my bonsai are between that range. I think they can be

just about any size you want. I saw a pine at the national arboratum that must of been 5-6' tall. That's the largest bonsai I've seen.

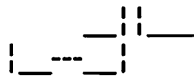
Keith

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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 16:36:35 -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 storage
In-Reply-To: <9208171638.AA12468.12468@alfred.ccs.carleton.ca >; from "Keith Sedgwick" at Aug 17, 92 10:42 am

I leave my pine, juniper, and hemlock outside in a coldframe all winter. Our temperature gets down to -20 or -30 degrees C. The coldframes are well covered with snow during the winter.

Other things that I think can't stand the bitter cold go in the basement where it stays about -5 to +10 C. They are under lights on a timer which gives them about 8 to 10 hours of light a day.

A few "tropical" plants I keep in my study at cool room temperature in a south-east facing window.

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

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Date: Mon, 17 Aug 1992 22:31:20 EDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
From: HALLRL@MOREKYPR.BITNET
Subject: Buttonwoods & classifications

Keith, buttonwoods should be pruned during their growing season which is

May to August, follow some if the pruning instructions in the first mail. Plus you should pinch all new growth as emerges in the growing season to promote the breaking of new foliage on old wood. I'm not sure about when the branches should be wired but if you wire them in April you should rewire them again in July in the opposite direction.

Classification of Bonsai by height:

Shito	up to 3 inches
Mame	3 - 6 inches
Kotate Mochi	6 - 12 inches
Chiu Bonsai	12 - 24 inches
Dai Bonsai	24 - 39 inches and over

I have also seen some very large Bonsai ranging from 4 to 5 feet easily. They were differing species from ficus b., ficus nerifolia, buttonwood, Japanese maples, Chinese junipers, and differing pines that are owned and being trained by a bonsai master in Lexington, KY. He has an amazing collection which I admired this weekend when I purchased a very nice Chinese elm. The elm was raised in China and imported this spring, it has been raised in an exposed root style and appears to be created for more of a Chinese penjing style. The plant also has some very nice beginnings of tertiary branching and has been trained by someone who knew what they were doing 8-)! Well worth the \$80 bucks I spent for it.

Keith, I looked for a distributor of World Tropical Bonsai Forum in your area and the closest was in Portland. You might have better luck writing to :
World Tropical Bonsai Forum
10151 SW 138th St.
Miami, FL 33176
(305) 238-6486

Rando

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 10:18:43 -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: height of trees
In-Reply-To: "Matthew Simpson"'s message of Mon,
17 Aug 1992 15:47:44 EDT <9208172034.AA10053@relay1.UU.NET>

> What is the range of your tree heights?

I've seen some in the 2-3 foot area, but all of them have had unbelievable trunk girth and root development. I've seen some pretty ugly leggy ones around before, too.

There's an amazing Banyan tree for sale at my favorite bonsai nursery for \$4000, if you're looking - the shop is moving, so it may be 50% off over Labor Day weekend!!! :) (guess I'll stick to the little, younger trees.)

Janice Ritter
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 11:06:33 -0500
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: Chuck.O.Darney@CYBER.WIDENER.EDU
Subject: Reply to height of trees

>
> What is the range of your tree heights?
>

There are names for the various sizes as was posted. I would say they could be almost size you would want. As with most "art forms" there are few, if any, hard and fast rules. In general, you want the tree to be a height proportional to its size (trunk, root system, pot, etc). The smallest tree I have is about 1.5 - 2 inches (a cork-bark elm in a hollow rock) and the largest a group planting of bald cypress with the largest about 2.5 ft. Most of mine are between 6 and 18 inches.

Chuck Darney
DXCOD@cyber.widener.edu
Chester CO, PA (SE Pa)

** END OF MESSAGE **

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 12:04:37 EDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: "Matthew Simpson" <054340@ACADVM1.UOTTAWA.CA>
Subject: Another Q re: Arial Shoots

Just full of questions this week.
I've seen some pictures of aerial shoots on both Shefleria (sp?) and Ficus *. In the malls (I'm sure you've all noticed), the trends are to grow Fig trees to their full height, up towards the skylights. On some of these figs, I have seen some impressive aerial shoots (secondary trunks, roots growing down the side of the tree).

How do I promote these in my bonsai figs and sheflaria?

There are little nubs here and there on the sheflaria that grow into roots when cuttings are propagated. Will these form the shoots? Would misting them promote the downward growth?

I get the impression that these "trunk roots" are not the same as the exposed root style because the main trunk is still present all the way to the soil.

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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 |
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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 11:48:00 MDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: The Shadow <THESHADO@CORRAL.UWYO.EDU>
Subject: RE: Reply to height of trees
In-Reply-To: <01GNQ55AXA6A8Y5A1G*@mrgate.uwyo.edu>

Tree heights:

I don't have anything that is more than 5 years old, but...

All of my established plants range from about 3 inches to 24 inches. At the top end is a small group of figs (3) and a grapefruit (I think) that has basically been allowed to grow as it liked since it came up from seed 4 years ago. At the small end I have 2 partly trained juniper, 3 years old and about 4 inches tall, a couple of yearling pomegranites at 3 inches,

and a couple of english lavender (probably 3 years) at about 5 inches.
All of my other established plants are in that same height range.

However, I currently have a Serrisa I started from a cutting that measure's
in at an inch, and I think that it is going to become part of a small rock
planting if I ever come across a piece of rock up in the mountains that
seems appropriate.

Kirk Haines

theshado@outlaw.uwyo.edu

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 11:02:16 -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: Winter storage - again.
In-Reply-To: Keith Sedgwick's message of Mon,
17 Aug 1992 12:30:00 -0600 <9208171826.AA27307@relay1.UU.NET>

OK folks, have another question for you.

Yesterday, I rescued a sugar maple tree *sapling* from a
"good stuff cheap" warehouse kind of a store. The tree is not
in the most amazing shape. It's still wrapped in a small bag of
soil - I'm sure it was a reject from a "good" nursery.
It was only \$3.50, tho, so I bought it. It was so lonely, sitting
there against the fence in the rain...I'm such a softy.

Question for y'all is, can I try to "bonsai" this tree? It's
about 3/4 inch in diameter. I figure I can do one of the following:

- 1.) Lop off the top 3/4, cut the roots, and put it in a training
pot. (Stress may kill it?) It has some buds right above the root
ball, but no leaves yet.
- 2.) Lop off the top, leave the roots alone, and plant in a
somewhat deep container. (Would this leave too much of an
imbalance of the roots vs. leaves, since there are no leaves at
the bottom yet, only buds?)
- 3.) Just plant the whole tree in a nice deep container and wait
'till spring to do anything to it. (This sounded right to me, but
I don't have any room or way to winter a tree this size, since
I live in a townhouse.)
- 4.) Lop off only 1/2 of the top of the tree, trim the roots a little,
and then do #3.

I think I have to cut off at least part of the top (which is pretty spindly, just so I can deal with it this fall

Any comments from anybody? Help save this little abandoned tree!

Also, Keith had a question regarding putting little trees in the fridge for winter, and the danger of dehydration. The person who told me to do this mentioned only putting the tree in for about 6 weeks, which I guess is enough of a dormant phase. I'll ask whether the tree should be tied up in a bagn or not, but I think you're probably right.

Janice Ritter
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:10:42 -0500
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU
Subject: Re: Winter storage - again.

Janice said:

- > OK folks, have another question for you.
- > Yesterday, I rescued a sugar maple tree *sapling* from a
- > "good stuff cheap" warehouse kind of a store. The tree is not
- > in the most amazing shape. It's still wrapped in a small bag of
- > soil - I'm sure it was a reject from a "good" nursery.
- > It was only \$3.50, tho, so I bought it. It was so lonely, sitting
- > there against the fence in the rain...I'm such a softy.

What a sap :-) (I know, bad pun)

- >
- > Question for y'all is, can I try to "bonsai" this tree? It's
- > about 3/4 inch in diameter. I figure I can do one of the following:
- >
- > 1.) Lop off the top 3/4, cut the roots, and put it in a training
- > pot. (Stress may kill it?) It has some buds right above the root
- > ball, but no leaves yet.

Not until spring. You'll almost surely kill it if you do this.

- > 2.) Lop off the top, leave the roots alone, and plant in a
- > somewhat deep container. (Would this leave too much of an

- > imbalance of the roots vs. leaves, since there are no leaves at
- > the bottom yet, only buds?)

Ditto

- >3.) Just plant the whole tree in a nice deep container and wait
- > 'till spring to do anything to it. (This sounded right to me, but
- > I don't have any room or way to winter a tree this size, since
- > I live in a townhouse.)

Do you have a garage or other covered outdoor parking place? Maybe you can find a place behind some bushes outside. There must be someplace you can go to at night and stash this thing until spring. What are your plans for it after you bonsai it? It will need to go outside every winter.

- >4.) Lop off only 1/2 of the top of the tree, trim the roots a little,
- > and then do #3.

Same as 1 and 2

- > Janice Ritter
- > ritter@ileaf.com

Dan Cwierniewicz

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:14:27 -0500
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
From: dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU
Subject: Compost, Soil, etc

OK, I've read the books. They all say to make bonsai compost out of sharp sand and a mix of other ingredients. I've checked landscape supply houses, nurseries, builders supply companies, etc. No one knows what sharp sand is. From the name I would guess that this is sand that should feel sharp when rubbed between the fingers. Bagged play sand is very fine and soft, as is fill sand and pool sand. The best I can find is something called slag sand. Any comments?

Dan Cwierniewicz

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 14:19:00 -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: Buttonwoods & classifications

Hi Rando:

Thanks for the buttonwood information. I got brave and wired my buttonwood last Saturday. Some of the new growth was 4-5" long. I took plenty of time and did it real careful. I used the smallest diameter of wire I had and wired to the very end of the new growth.

I probably should have pinched back the new growth earlier, but I have some blank areas I need to fill in. Then too, when I have a new species and I really want it to survive and do well, I am hesitant to pinch and cut back any new growth. I'm so happy to see it growing and surviving that I don't want to change anything. It's not like me with some of my junipers. Sometime I really "whack" at 'em because I know they will survive and come back.

I'm really struggling with the style. The trunk is about 12-13" tall, 4" wide, and 1" deep. Strange huh. It has a very thin strip of live bark running up one edge of the trunk all the way to the top. It has a lot of exposed wood that I lime-sulfured this summer. It slants very dramatically at the base and twists and turns all the way to the top. The apex of the tree is about 6-8" offset from the base. All the growth is at the top of the tree. I don't want to have this very dramatic trunk with a "gob" of green growth sitting at the top. I guess I'll have to look at it for a couple of years before I decided which way to go. In the meantime, I can go the normal right, left, back arrangement. This tree deserves more than the usual 1, 2, and 3, triangle look.

Rando you dog! How dare you tell us about this chinese elm you just got. I can't believe you only paid \$80 for an imported, exposed root, chinese elm! I paid \$75 for a 5-gal nursery stock olive. Where to you find these jewels? I need to put a tail on you so I can follow you around when you buy your trees. Ha! ha! Oh ya - I just remembered it was also styled in the penjing style. Now I'm really burned!

Thanks for sending me the World Tropical Bonsai Forum. I'll have to write them and see if they have those issues for sale.

Keith

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:19:28 EDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>

Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: "Matthew Simpson" <054340@UOTTAWA.BITNET>
Subject: Re: Compost, Soil, etc
In-Reply-To: Message of Tue,
18 Aug 1992 16:14:27 -0500 from <dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU>

On Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:14:27 -0500 <dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU> said:

> From the name I would guess that this is sand that should feel sharp
> when rubbed between the fingers. Bagged play sand is very fine and soft,
> as is fill sand and pool sand. The best I can find is something called
> slag sand. Any comments?

>

(notice how I kinda deleted some of the lines so the reply would be shorter?)

As I understand it, and remember it, sand is either very fine and soft,
or it is more loose and coarse. I think sharp sand = coarse sand.
This is the sand you get when you play in the sand box. It does not
hold water well and the size of each grain is larger than the size of
each grain of finer sand.

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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 |
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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:26:15 EDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: "Matthew Simpson" <054340@ACADVM1.UOTTAWA.CA>
Subject: A fig that's too tall

A recent posting on buttonwoods reminded me of this question I have.
I recently bought this fig tree that is about 3 feet tall (measuring
from the bottom of the pot to the top leaf; Or should I measure from
the soil? In that case, 2 feet). The tree is nothing but a tall
stick with a sphere of leaves on the top. The roots protrude from the
soil a bit and look fantastic (rolling and twisting).

What might I do with this tree over time?

Here are a few options I've thought of.

1) Keep the tree from growing any taller. Allow the lateral branches to hang down to get a weeping effect. Hope the trunk gets thicker over time.

2) Try to promote new growth from old wood down lower on the trunk. When enough branches form to grant a good start, I could then remove the top portion of the tree (air layer) so that the tree will have lower branches with (proportionally) a larger trunk.

Any ideas?

If I do one of the above, what methods should I use? What might be some implications that the less experienced person would be naive to? Thank you for any and all feedback.

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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 |
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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:37:41 -0500
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
From: "by way of dan@foghorn.pass.wayne.edu" <tina@ILS.NWU.EDU >
Subject: List

Can I get on this list? I'm not even sure how an e-mail group works...any info is appreciated.

>> I told her how to join, and she is now on so fire away
>> Dan Cwierniewicz

I'm a novice (but with a minor in Japanese and many months spent there, I've never kicked the desire to create and maintain saikei). My first (somewhat) successful attempt resulted when my fiance built a wooden box (very nice) and we planted a nicely sculpted young evergreen. The moss maintenance is quite up and down (we brought back mosses from the UP area of Michigan, and it seems to have died off and then come back pretty much).

My constant beginner question seems to pivot around the issue of maintaining soil/moss moisture for both indoors and out. Probably, any

artificial (mechanically automated) means of watering is quite frowned upon, but since the health of the plants are in the balance, I'll like to know if there is a simple way to rig up an automatic water/spray system (especially when I'm off on vacation).

The one saikei I'd really like to try for is a stand of maple trees -- any info or experience on this would be fantastic! I already have leads for places to find maple seeds -- now, how to grow them? When to establish them? How to mimic nature in order to see the fall colors (leave them outside all the time)?

Thanks

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 15:01:00 -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: Another Q re: Aerial Shoots

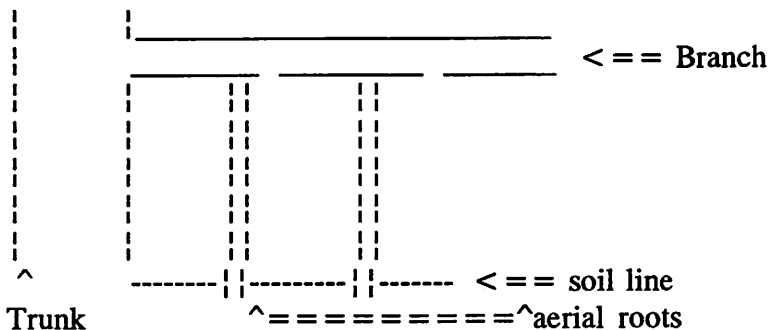
Matt:

Do you mean aerial roots that come directly down off the lower branches or do you mean additional roots that come down next to the existing trunk?

How do I promote these in my bonsai figs and sheflaria?

There are little nubs here and there on the sheflaria that grow into roots when cuttings are propagated. Will these form the shoots? Would misting them promote the downward growth?

I've seen a tree at our club meeting with several aerial roots coming down from a branch.



I think the owner said he used a technique with a large soda straw. He

split the soda straw and filled it with a peat moss mixture. I believe he said he then cut into the bottom of a branch and put rooting hormone on the cut and then placed the soda straw exactly underneath the cut and kept the peat moss inside the straw damp. This caused the branch to send a root down through the soda straw and into the soil. After the root reached the soil and was established, he removed the soda straw and peat moss mixture.

We have our club meeting in a couple of weeks and I'll ask him if that is correct.

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: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 15:24:00 -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: Compost, Soil, etc

Hi Dan:

Do the builders supply stores sell silica sand? Most of builders supply stores here sell a silica sand they use for sand blasting. This is a *very* sharp sand. I buy a bag of the largest grit available, every spring to use in my repotting. The stuff is very heavy. A small bag about the size of water softner salt weighs 100 lbs. This is the best sharp sand I found.

When I first started bonsai, I went out in my kids sand pile and used that sand. Boy, what a dummy. The sand was so fine, it didn't provide any drainage at all. The trunks of my trees got a large build up of salt and turned white at the soil line. I didn't know what was wrong. The bonsai nurseryman said it might be my soil mixture. Most of my trees went to tree heaven that year.

Just recently, the bonsai nurseryman found a place up near Park City that makes concrete blocks. In the block building process they use a fired, clay like substance that will not break down like some kitty litter does when

it is watered every day. It might be like the slag sand you referred to. This fired product actually holds moisture and is large enough to drain well and doesn't become waterlogged. I haven't tried any of it yet. It looks much better than the silica sand. The silica sand is almost white, while the fired clay is sorta brown, kitty litter color. It looks much better in the pot.

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: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:28:00 -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: Maple saikei

Hi Tina:

Our local bonsai guru said that some people worry more about maintaining moss than they do their trees. He said moss also goes through growth cycles. I've just about given up trying to keep moss green. In Utah the humidity so low, every bit of moss I get on trees taken from a greenhouse goes brown in about two weeks. I would have to mist my trees three or four times a day to keep the moss green. Right now I just don't have than much time to spend on them. If you had a mechanical means of misting maybe I could keep it green.

Some days I would like to have an automated watering system. One thing watering by hand does is that it forces you to look at your trees every single day. This is important to catch insect infestation and nutrient deficiencies early. If I had a automatic watering system I might not check on them for three or four days. By then spider mites or some disease could be well advanced. You can take corrective action right away when you notice the problem, if you look at your trees each day. If I didn't have to water each day I don't know if I would look at them. It might be real easy to ignore them when I'm tired and don't want to be bothered.

The one saikei I'd really like to try for is a stand of maple trees -- any

info or experience on this would be fantastic! I already have leads for places to find maple seeds -- now, how to grow them? When to establish them? How to mimic nature in order to see the fall colors (leave them outside all the time)?

You might want to consider buying small trees to use in a forest saikei. There are some Amur maples that have great fall coloring. I think you can enjoy them immediately if you use seedlings or small container trees rather than growing trees from seed. Sometimes, I'm not a very patient person and if I can get the jump on the saikei I'll do it every time. I know some people like to have control over their trees, right from planting the seed, to using them in a forest. That is OK. I'm usually not that patient. I like to look at them as soon as I put them in a pot. That is just me and everyone is different.

You might want to buy a good bonsai book to get started. I think somebody on the newtork recommended some books you could start with. One that comes to mind is one published by Sunset Books. I know there are several others that really helped me get started on the right foot.

We're happy to have you on the list and keep us informed as to your progress. 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: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 17:52:05 CDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
From: tina@ILS.NWU.EDU
Subject: Re: Maple saikei

Hi Keith (and anyone else out there)!

- >
- > Our local bonsai guru said that some people worry more about maintaining
- > moss than they do their trees. He said moss also goes through growth cycles.
- > I've just about given up trying to keep moss green. In Utah the humidity so
- > low, every bit of moss I get on trees taken from a greenhouse goes brown in

> about two weeks. I would have to mist my trees three or four times a day to
> keep the moss green. Right now I just don't have than much time to spend on
> them. If you had a mechanical means of misting maybe I could keep it green.
> Some days I would like to have an automated watering system. One thing
> watering by hand does is that it forces you to look at your trees every
> single day. This is important to catch insect infestation and nutrient
> deficiencies early. If I had a automatic watering system I might not check
> on them for three or four days. By then spider mites or some diease could be
> well advanced. You can take corrective action right away when you notice the
> problem, if you look at your trees each day. If I didn't have to water each
> day I don't know if I would look at them. It might be real easy to ignore
> them when I'm tired and don't want to be bothered.

In the time that I've had the tree/rocks/moss, its true, I sometimes find I'm completely focused on the moss -- spraying 3-4 times a day till I'm exhausted with the process. That's why I think it would be nice to have an automated system -- not to worry so much. However, you've brought up a very profound point: watering every day means really looking at the saikei, both for health of the saikei and for the reason I'm so happy with it -- nothing else has ever given so much tranquility and quiet internal musing, nor been so accessible. I think I'd need to be mindful of neglecting that quality of it -- and find a way of making a watering system which a) acts only as a "minimum requirement" delivery system, and b) have variable control (Dan clued me in -- different weather conditions and varying trees = differing water requirements at any particular time). Then, perhaps I would still respond to the daily care needs of the tree/s.

>
> You might want to consider buying small trees to use in a forest saikei.
> There are some Amur maples that have great fall coloring. I think you can
> enjoy them immediately if you use seedlings or small container trees rather
> than growing trees from seed. Sometimes, I'm not a very patient person and
> if I can get the jump on the saikei I'll do it every time. I know some
> people like to have control over their trees, right from planting the seed,
> to using them in a forest. That is OK. I'm usually not that patient. I
> like to look at them as soon as I put them in a pot. That is just me and
> everyone is different.

This, actually, is what I would like to do...but all my attempts to find small maples locally in the Chicago area came up empty. Do you know of any place that sells and delivers the Amur maple seedlings? Because I so much enjoy viewing the saikei, I'd go for seedlings over seeds -- its just that I've recently heard only of seed sources. Perhaps someday when I'm proficient, I'd be more interested in starting with seeds.

Aanother question which has rumbled around in my head for months...on

occasion, when the tree must have dried out a bit (or maybe it was due to transplanting?), some of the evergreen leaves turned brown (Japanese Juniper, I believe). Is it best to prune some of the branches (I'm thinking of a few which are clumped with enough others not to ruin to overall sight), or leave them alone and expect that the needles may grow back (Yes, I'm totally clueless, and haven't found this aspect answered in the Bonsai/Saikei books I've read!). Do you ever have remedies for losses to the plant?

Thanks for the opportunity to learn!

Tina

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Date: Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:08:45 -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: Another Q re: Ariel Shoots
In-Reply-To: "Matthew Simpson"'s message of Tue,
18 Aug 1992 12:04:37 EDT <9208181904.AA13736@relay1.UU.NET>

> I've seen some pictures of aerial shoots on both
> Shefleria (sp?) and Ficus *.

My bonsai nursery person told me that ariel roots on trees like Ficus * are easy to grow in hot, *humid* places like Florida, but not so easy to do in your home if you live further north/west. I guess a greenhouse would do it.

On my recent trip to Cozumel, Mexico, there were Ficus *everywhere* that looked like they were composed of ariel roots. These were trees planted along the roads. (I've also never been in a more humid place than Cozumel in July. It was fun.) I took some pictures of these trees with our cruddy disk camera. Pictures came out, but not very good. Really do no justice to the trees. I loved them!

Janice Ritter
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 08:11:32 -0400
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: Mark Evans <LIBEVANS@EKU.BITNET>
Subject: Re: Compost, Soil, etc

Dan,

Try builders sand. It comes in bags and is used as mortar fill. Usually, we see it around here in 40 lb. bags. Always remember to wash it thoroughly before adding it to your soil mix.

Good luck,

Mark E.

LIBEVANS@EKU.BITNET

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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 10:46:08 -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: Winter storage - again.
In-Reply-To: dan@FOGHORN.PASS.WAYNE.EDU's message of Tue,
18 Aug 1992 16:10:42 -0500 <9208190229.AA06929@relay1.UU.NET>

Thanks for your comments, Dan!

I think I'll plant the little maple tree in a good-sized pot, and I won't lop the top off yet.

I don't have a garage now for wintering it, tho. :(There *are* foundation plantings around the townhouse area - I could hide the tree behind some of those. Think the Mass. winter would hurt it, since it's in a pot? (Gets down to 10 degrees or so, then it thaws, then it gets cold, then it thaws, etc. Yucky winters.)

Maybe I could plant the entire pot into the foundation planting soil behind some bushes for the winter, and put a note in a plastic bag around the trunk for the landscaping people asking them to leave it alone, and if it's a problem, call me. Sound good enough to try?

> What are your plans for it after you bonsai it? It will need to
> go outside every winter.

Hopefully, we'll buy a house next summer, and I'll have plenty of places for wintering trees! We should have a house by fall of '93, I think, so things should improve. A room for my husband and I, a room for a baby (not yet, tho!), and a room for my bonsai and tropical fish. Ideally, that room would be kinda humid and warm. Then, I'll had some land, so I'll build cold shelters and a nice potting shed. (What dreams!)

Janice
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 09:52:00 MDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: The Shadow <THESHADO@CORRAL.UWYO.EDU>
Subject: RE: Another Q re: Ariel Shoots
In-Reply-To: <01GNRFDP6ARO8Y5FBO*@mrgate.uwyo.edu>

>> I've seen some pictures of aerial shoots on both
>> Shefleria (sp?) and Ficus *.

> My bonsai nursery person told me that ariel roots on trees
> like Ficus * are easy to grow in hot, *humid* places like
> Florida, but not so easy to do in your home if you live further
> north/west. I guess a greenhouse would do it.

Just thinking in electrons here...

If one were to go to a garage sale, and one were to find an old bird cage,
or an old wireframe rabbit cage, or even a wire record player stand, and one
were to wrap such a thing in a light permeable plastic, and one were to
put things such as Ficus in this creation, would one have a functional
high humidity environment that would encourage growth of things such as
ariel roots?

Any ideas on how quickly such things grow?

Kirk Haines
theshado@outlaw.uwyo.edu

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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 12:35:25 EDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: "Matthew Simpson" <054340@UOTTAWA.BITNET>
Subject: watering and tending
In-Reply-To: Message of Tue, 18 Aug 1992 17:52:05 CDT from <tina@ILS.NWU.EDU>

Regarding the automatic watering systems and the threat of not attending
to the trees, (see? only a few lines, and you know what I'm talking about)
I have a different "problem," if it can be called a problem.

After all the watering is finished, after the trimming has been done,

after the trees have been rotated, relocated, replanted, and everything is as good as it can be, I can't stop tending for the trees. That sense of tranquility is so addicting that I find myself staring for long periods of time at my trees. I am so drawn towards the trees in my apartment that an automated watering system would never steer me away.

I wish I could bring one of my trees into the office here. However, there are no windows and only florescent overhead lights. The lights are out for the entire weekend. Therefore, the tree would not do well in the office. Maybe it's a good thing because the tree might deter me from my work. Have fun!

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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 |
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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 12:44:50 EDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: "Matthew Simpson" <054340@UOTTAWA.BITNET>
Subject: Re: Another Q re: Ariel Shoots
In-Reply-To: Message of Tue,
18 Aug 1992 16:08:45 -0400 from <ritter@FLOYD.HQ.ILEAF.COM>

On Tue, 18 Aug 1992 16:08:45 -0400 Janice Ritter x5444 said:

- > > I've seen some pictures of aerial shoots on both
- > > Shefleria (sp?) and Ficus *.
- >
- > My bonsai nursery person told me that ariel roots on trees
- > like Ficus * are easy to grow in hot, *humid* places like
- > Florida, but not so easy to do in your home if you live further
- > north/west. I guess a greenhouse would do it.
- >

I guess the solution would be a terrarium? Any good references for terrariums? Instructions? Models? Plans? For purchase?

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

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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 11:25:00 MDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >
From: The Shadow <THESHADO@CORRAL.UWYO.EDU >
Subject: Something funny, plus a question about rock planting
In-Reply-To: <01GNRIM3CJGS8Y5I4I*@mrgate.uwyo.edu >

>hide the tree behind some of those. Think the Mass. winter would
>hurt it, since it's in a pot? (Gets down to 10 degrees or so, then
>it thaws, then it gets cold, then it thaws, etc. Yucky winters.)

Janice, I chuckled when I saw this. Yucky winter? Temps all the way
down to 10 degrees. (*laugh*) Some people just don't have any concept
of Yucky winters.
Now on to more serious matters.

> Maybe I could plant the entire pot into the foundation planting
> soil behind some bushes for the winter, and put a note in a
> plastic bag around the trunk for the landscaping people asking
> them to to leave it alone, and if it's a problem, call me.
> Sound good enough to try?

Sounds like a decent thing to do.

Now for my real reson for this post:

I mentioned yesterday that I am considering making a little rock planting
out of an inch or so tall serrisa I propagated from a cutting. I'm curious,
though, about the best way to go about this. It would be neat if the rock
itself were the pot for the planting, but how much space and what sort of
aperture is needed to accomadate the plant? What sort of rock should I
look for? Consider that I live in the Rockies, and the predominant types
of rock around here granites and quartzes (Including some beautiful Rose
Quartz) and rocks of similar ilk, with a fair quantity of sandstone in
some areas. How does a person deal with problems of drainage and salt
build up in a rock planting?

Kirk Haines
theshado@outlaw.uwyo.edu

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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 15:21:22 -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: Another Q re: Arial Shoots
In-Reply-To: The Shadow's message of Wed,
19 Aug 1992 09:52:00 MDT <9208191559.AA08593@relay1.UU.NET>

> If one were to go to a garage sale, and one were to find an old bird
> cage, or an old wireframe rabbit cage, or even a wire record player
> stand, and one were to wrap such a thing in a light permeable
> plastic, and one were to put things such as Ficus in this creation,
> would one have a functional high humidity environment that would
> encourage growth of things such as aerial roots?

I think you need the warmth, too. Aren't there coils you can put
under little greenhouse-type things? I think there are for
seedling plants - be they could be adapted.

And yah, 10 degrees is pretty wimpy for a winter, all in all.
The "yucky" part, tho, is the constant cycle of freeze-thaw. It
tricks a lot of trees into budding/sending out shoots in
January/February, and then the buds get frozen off in the next
storm. Since the snowcover is gone, some trees and plantings
get iced and killed by the weird temps and wind. *sigh*
(The cycle also promotes disgusting, sloppy, slushy conditions.)
In Ohio, once it got cold, it pretty much stayed cold. Maybe
we're due for a cold winter this year, with Mt. Pinatubo's
eruption.

Janice Ritter
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Wed, 19 Aug 1992 23:20:36 EDT
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>
From: HALLRL@MOREKYPR.BITNET
Subject: Banyan and misc....

Banyan Styling:

The most popular species for the Banyan style are Ficus Salicifolia, Ficus Benjamina, Ficus Macrophylla, Ficus Aurea, Ficus Stricta, and Schefflera Arboricola. Aerial roots form on the shaded undersides of branches where there is high humidity. To promote the forming of aerial roots, allow the lower branches to extend and become heavily foliated and promote the establishment of aerial roots further out on the branch and farther away from the original trunk. Misting the underside will also encourage aerial roots as was pointed out earlier. Check spring 1991 issue of World Tropical Bonsai Forum for more details on how to create and develop Banyan styles. I have seen a huge Ficus Salicifolia in Florida that was 75 years old and in the Banyan style, beautiful!

Tina, I ordered 20 Amur Maples from Henry Fields for about \$13.00 US, these plants were about 12-16 inches tall. I've created a forest planting of young Japanese maples which work out nicely, it is a formation of 9 trees. I've used suggested planting arrangements from a Peter Chan book I own, 'Bonsai Masterclass'.

Keith, a big yes on the prints 8-)! The place I bought the elm is a nursery in Lexington, KY called Amburgey Gardens. It is owned by a bonsai master who has been doing bonsai for 25+ years, I can't remember his name. He was commissioned by the Cincinnati Zoo last summer to create a bonsai display in the zoo. The guy has some amazing trees! You may want to check in the WTBF articles on buttonwood for tips on training your tree.

Janice, let us know how the sugar maple turns out, I've never tried to bonsai one. You want to leaf prune it early next summer if it is healthy and is developing too large a leaves.

Rando

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Date: Thu, 20 Aug 1992 10:43:00 -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: Maple sai-kei - Tina

Hi Tina:

Oh boy, I just logged in and noticed I've got about 10 posts to read. I wasn't able to spend much time on the network yesterday, letting work get in the way. Can you believe it! I don't know how anyone can let work get in front of reading and answering bonsai mail. *chuckle*chuckle* {8-).

How much time did you spend in Japan? Is that where you developed your interest in Bonsai/Saikei? I spent about 3 weeks in Japan, off and on. I was in the Navy for 2 years and made one WESTPAC cruise. At that time I had little interest in Bonsai, so I really didn't do much learning and looking. Someday I would like to take one of John Naka's bonsai tours to Japan. Maybe when I become rich and famous.

(Parts deleted)

it -- nothing else has ever given so much tranquility and quiet internal musing, nor been so accessible. I think I'd need to be mindful of neglecting that quality of it -- and find a way of making a watering

Your use of the phrase "tranquility and quiet internal musing" sure describes how a lot of us feel about our hobby. It can be both frustrating and enjoyable. Frustrating because you do not have complete artistic control of the medium. There are ideas you have, but cannot transfer those ideas to trees like a painter transfers his ideas to canvas, or a potter to his clay.

(Parts deleted)

...This, actually, is what I would like to do...but all my attempts to find small maples locally in the Chicago area came up empty. Do you know of any place that sells and delivers the Amur maple seedlings?

I would think an urban area the size of Chicago would have a thriving bonsai/saikei community. There should be clubs you could contact and find out where they purchase their trees. If Salt Lake City can support a single bonsai nursery, I would think the Chicago area would have several.

(Parts deleted)

Another question which has rumbled around in my head for months...on occasion, when the tree must have dried out a bit (or maybe it was due to transplanting?), some of the evergreen leaves turned brown (Japanese Juniper, I believe). Is it best to prune some of the branches (I'm thinking of a few which are clumped with enough others not to ruin to overall sight), or leave them alone and expect that the needles may grow back (Yes, I'm totally clueless, and haven't found this aspect answered in the Bonsai/Saikei books I've read!). Do you ever have remedies for losses to the plant?

Ah junipers, (sigh) they are both a blessing and a curse. A blessing because they are usually a very forgiving tree; and a curse because of the mites that are attracted to them and some difficult growing habits.

I think junipers need a lot of light and air circulation to encourage new growth and the dormant buds to start to grow. I have two large juniper shrubs around my house that are about 8' tall. If you part back the branches and look inside there is a massive amount of dry, prickly, brown, dead secondary branches. I would think the same concept applies to junipers used as bonsai. It depends on the style of the tree. If you want a tree "cone" shaped, and not expose the trunk or branches, you pinch back everything that grows outside the cone shape. However, if you want a tree where you can see the trunk and branches then you have to leave some room around the branch so it receives good light and air circulation. Branch placement is quite important in junipers.

It seems like the new growth on my junipers have a definite life. The secondary branches start to grow from a bud. If I let the bud grow into a dense foliage mass it will turn yellow inside the mass. If the mass blocks the light and air circulation around other growth areas, the other areas starts to turn yellow with only green growth at the tips.

I'm continually pinching my junipers with my fingers. This keeps them constantly sending out new growth and looking good. It really bugs a well know bonsai master - Dan Robinson. If you have ever attended one of his seminars he says "pinch, pinch, pinch". In a vary demeaning voice. He is into carving and twisted, knarley(sp), wiring patterns. Be sure to use your fingers to pinch back the new growth. If you clip the growth with sissors you will get a large part of the clipped growth turning brown. It doesn't hurt the tree, just looks bad.

Junipers also seem to have a growth pattern I watch for. It usually has dormanent buds in the crotch of the branch, where it joins the trunk. If I let this bud grow it seems to rob the branch of nutrients and light. The branch will quit growing or grow very slowly. I always keep the crotch between the branch and the trunk clear of any new growth. I don't recall reading anything on this, just my own experience.

Well, I hope this helps you. Let us know how things go.

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.