



Serving the Pikes Peak Area since 1987

Next up:

SATURDAY, March 2, 2013

Repotting trees (regular meeting). You are encouraged to bring a plant that needs repotting (your plant, your coil, your pot). At the Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave. 10 am to noon.

Repotting allows you to check on the health of your tree (or other plant) by seeing the extent of new root growth. The roots are both the pipelines of some of the food-making nutrients and water taken in from the soil, and also the storage units of some of the made food.

In most plants, new roots are white, fine and fibrous. Lots of new roots indicates the plant is thriving and producing new roots – more pipelines and storage units. Very few new roots means that the plant is not thriving.

If the soil is too fine-grained or heavy, it has been holding too much moisture, possibly allowing conditions for the growth of non-beneficial micro-organisms. Heavy soil also prevents adequate amounts of oxygen from circulating around the roots. Or (less often) you might find that the soil is too dry, that you are not watering the plant enough and that the tree is, therefore, starving. The right amount of water in the soil helps dissolve certain nutrients, making them more available to the plant and/or to the beneficial micro-organisms that help feed the plant. Air pockets in the soil cause too much oxygen to circulate around the roots. Air pockets also hold more moisture and lead to the development of micro-organisms that cause root rot.

Everything we do is to establish a dynamic balance for the tree. Repotting as necessary – more often for faster-growing and younger trees – is a way we can check up on our charges and also provide additional nutrients via a little more “fresh” soil.

For plants that CANNOT be bare-rooted, such as pines, repotting consists of removing just the outer layer of soil all around the rootball when we also cut off the longest and most vigorously growing roots. Important micro-organisms in the “old” soil are needed to help break down soil components into nutrients that the plants can use.

For plants that CAN be barerooted, especially deciduous trees, most of the soil can be re-freshed when we root trim. These kinds of plants are not so dependent on external micro-organisms to help feed them.

Repotting is also a time when we can reposition the tree in its container for a better overall presentation, showing a new front or a better tilt, for instance.

Upcoming:

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - 10, 2013

Spencer's 16th Annual Garden Success Show at 4720 Center Valley Drive, off of U.S. 85-87 in north Fountain, north of the Wal-Mart and right next to the Goodwill store. Workshop for about 20 people on Saturday from 10 am to noon. Fee is \$35 for a juniper that you will work on there and take home. Advance registration is suggested; best way is to drop by Spencer's ahead of time and leave your workshop fee. Also, volunteers will be needed for our booth.

Remember, we are now on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/PikesPeakBonsaiSociety> .

** Please review the updated About Our Club page on our website

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/PPB/AboutUs.html>

For our continuing education:

On-line Club Newsletters from around the world

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Newsletters.html>

Some of the many Bonsai Forums and Blogs

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/ForumBlogs.html>

Videos of Some Public Collections and Teachers

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/BoldlyGrowb.html#Collections>

What Happened on This Day in Recent Bonsai History?

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Days/Days.html>

And, as always, the bottom line is: enjoy your trees.

Cordially,

Robert J. Baran
Secretary/Webmaster