

Because of the long hot and dry summers of the Phoenix area, many of the plants recommended for bonsai are not suitable here for long-term (over 6 months) use. The following material -- commonly available at local nurseries or on our annual trips to the Los Angeles area -- have been rated by members of the Phoenix Bonsai Society (90/91) as to hardiness as bonsai in containers in the Maricopa County area:

* Common Name	Botanical Name	Recommended Varieties
GROUP I Hardy, easy to grow:		
F Banyan	(Ficus microcarpa (retusa))	
F Bougainvillea	(Bougainvillea glabra)	Barbara Karst
F Elephant Food	(Portulacaria afra)	
Elm, Chinese	(Ulmus parvifolia)	Catlin, Drake, Cork-bark
F Fig, Weeping	(Ficus benjamina)	
Ginkgo/Maidenhair	(Ginkgo biloba)	Chichi
Kumquat	(Fortunella japonica)	
F Lantana	(Lantana montevidensis)	
Myrtle, dwarf	(Myrtus communis)	Microphylla
Olive	(Olea europaea)	
Sage, Texas	(Salvia coccinea)	
Sago Palm	(Cycas revoluta)	
GROUP II Fairly hardy:		
F Acacia, Sweet	(Acacia farnesiana)	Juniper, San Jose (J. squamata)
Arborvitae	(Thuja orientalis)	C Lavendar Star (Grewia occidentalis)
C,F Bottle-brush Tree	(Callistemon sp.)	Mesquite (Prosopis sp.)
Bottle Tree	(Brachychiton populneus)	F Natal Plum (Carissa grandiflora)
Carob	(Ceratonia siliqua)	Palo Verde, Blue (Cercidium floridum)
Creosote/Greasewood	(Larrea tridentata)	Pine, Aleppo (Pinus halepensis)
Cypress, Arizona	(Cupressus glabra)	Pittosporum (Pittosporum sp.)
Grape, European	(Vitis vinifera)	Pomegranate, Dwarf (Punica granatum)
Hackberry, Reticul.	(Celtis reticulata)	S Privet, Japan. (Ligustrum japonicum)
Holly, Yaupon	(Ilex vomitoria)	Silk Oak (Grevillea robusta)
Juniper, Procumben	(Juniperus procumbens)	Sumac, African (Rhus lancea)
Juniper, Prostrata	(Juniperus prostrata)	Vitex (Vitex agnus-castus)
GROUP III Difficult at times:		
Boxwood	(Buxus microphylla)	Pine, Japan. Black (P. thunbergiana)
C Heavenly Bamboo	(Nandina domestica)	Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis)
Honeysuckle, Cape	(Tecomaria capensis)	Serissa (Serissa foetida)
C,S Liquidamber/Sweet Gum	(Liquidamber sp.)	C Yew Pine (Podocarpus macrophyllus)
Oak, Holly	(Quercus ilex)	Zelkova (Zelkova serrata)
Pine, Eldarica	(Pinus eldarica)	
GROUP IV Very challenging/difficult to grow:		
C Australian Tea Tree	(Leptospermum scoparium)	Pine, Italian Stone (Pinus pinea)
C,S Azalea	(Rhododendron sp.)	Pyracantha (Pyra. angustifolia)
Cedar, Blue Atlas	(Cedrus atlantica)	Spruce, Blue (Picea pungens)
Cotoneaster	(Cotoneaster sp.)	Wisteria, Chinese (Wist. sinensis)
S Maple, Japanese	(Acer palmatum)	Xylosma (Xylosma congestum)

\* Notes: 'F' Frost sensitive ; 'C' Subject to Iron Chlorosis ; 'S' Sunburns easily