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Date: Thu, 20 Aug 1992 11:04:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Janice's Maple

(Parts deleted)

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.)

Hi Janice:

If you have red maples growing naturally in your area, I would think you  
would be pretty safe in leaving it outside in your yucky winters.

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!)

Oh yes! don't forget the greenhouse for the tropical bonsai.

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: Thu, 20 Aug 1992 11:24:00 -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: watering and tending

Hi Matt:

(Part deleted)

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.

Me too. It's so enjoyable rotating, relocating, repotting, pinching, watering, etc. that sometimes you don't have enough time in the day to take care of the staring, tranquilizing (if that is a word), internal musing time.

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.

I bet there is a low light tree you could coax into surviving in an office situation. You need to get two or three trees and periodically rotate them between the growing environment and your office. Most bonsai can survive a week or so in an office. The bonsai nursery said a Texas Ebony can survive an office situation. I have one but haven't dared take it to work with me. I wonder how a "Joseph's Coat" would do. I think that's the name of the plant. Has very velvety, colorful leaves. I don't have a book here at work I could look for the plant. I've seen a Joseph's Coat? shaped as a bonsai and it looked quite well.

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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Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: tina@ILS.NWU.EDU  
Subject: Re: Maple saikei - Tina

Hi Keith and Rondo,

> How much time did you spend in Japan? Is that where you developed your  
> interest in Bonsai/Saikei?

I spent 8 months (went twice -- 2 mo & 6 mo, about 15 years ago) and, now that you've asked, I've realized that my time spent wandering through Japanese gardens really started my interest in saikei -- that if I couldn't spend my spare time in the gardens, perhaps I could create the same wraparound visual sense which seemed to transport me while I was in them. I'm such a clueless gardener, though, that I never indulged in trying to make a landscape. (OK, OK ... its true, I tried a couple of times and got SO into putzing with the trees, I pruned them to the bark! A Lesson I Had To Learn The Hard Way) After seeing both Japanese gardens and bonsai, I felt I was seeing nature as artwork that sort of went beyond nature and man: nature as a representation of so many things. I'm just realizing now that maybe its alright to have approached saikei from the perspective of craft more than science ... I hope the trees and experienced enthusiasts can help to teach me the finer points of tree care -- seems like learning from books requires some hands-on knowledge of gardening, and I never had exposure to that.

However, just yesterday I went to the new bookstore off-campus -- they had Peter Chan's book, 'Bonsai Masterclass' which Rondo mentioned...hopefully, I'll get motivated to read it! And thanks on the maple source, too -- but where is Henry Fields? Can you describe your stand of 9 maples? And have you seen the changes in coloration yet? What are your thoughts on maintenance? The more I can visualize before I get started, I figure, the better chance I have once I plant them.

From Keith's notes again:

> 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.

But, then, how did you get drawn to bonsai? Osmosis I bet...visit Japan and you'll bring back something of the place with you. I don't even want to ask about John Naka's bonsai tours...maybe I'll stop and buy my first lottery ticket.

> 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.

That is why I'm so glad I stumbled onto this group...others who actually understand the "something else" that occurs when you view or work on bonsai/saikei. Never thought about the canvas/clay comparison -- perhaps that's part of the draw...working with what is there, without total control.

> 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.

>  
That's what I'm starting to check on now -- never felt I had the necessary knowledge of bonsai/saikei to seek out a club and ask annoying novice questions before! This has really gotten me started in the right direction -- 15 years waiting to begin a lifetime's hobby.

> Ah junipers, (sigh) [Parts deleted]

Yes! Its (I don't know the formal name of the shapes) a tree whose trunk bends back and has such a nice structure that seeing both branches and trunk is great.

Now I know to watch for yellowing leaves and will try to figure out a way to slowly thin the dying branches. I had wondered what caused that "scissor burn", I guess I need to let the tree nip my fingers while I pinch it back to keep the tips green. And the only bonsai master I've ever seen was at the one bonsai-related thing I ever attended -- a show in Minneapolis about 5 years ago...and this guy took a chain saw to a 4 foot tree to demonstrate how to turn household landscapes into "bonsai". I guess I had hoped for a gentler method!

[Parts deleted]

> I don't recall reading anything on this, just my own experience.

That's the best kind -- advice you may never get from books. Thanks -- not only am I checking my tree tonight to clear for new growth in the joints (still need a few days to work up the confidence to cut back those dying branches)...but I've also become refocused toward "seeing it new" again.

>

> Well, I hope this helps you.

Very much So!

Tina Jones  
jones@ils.nwu.edu

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=====  
Date: Thu, 20 Aug 1992 16:57:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Shadow's question about rock planting.

(some parts deleted) The Shadow writes:

Now for my real reason 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 accommodate 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?

Hi Shadow (Kirk):

Do you have any trees planted on rocks? They make great looking bonsai and are cheap if you can collect the rocks from nature. You don't have to buy the pot. {8-). You can use a very small nook or depression in the rock to make the planting. If I can bore you with my 2 cents, I'll tell you about my experiences with rocks.

You need a rock that is hard enough to stand up to the daily waterings, and not wash away and become crumbly and weak. It has also got to be hard enough to take the freezing and thawing you have during the winter if it is left outside. It should also be interesting to look at, with different angles, shapes, color, and just basically, be an interesting rock. I think certain pieces of granite or quartz would suit the bill. I wouldn't consider as suitable, a boring round piece of sandstone found in a creek bed. Usually what you find is what you keep. Your caught between the "rock and a hard

spot." \*pun\* \*pun\* \*giggle\* \*giggle\* {8-).

It is very difficult to carve a piece of granite or other rock that is hard enough to hold up to the constant watering. You can usually chip a little bit away or deepen a depression, but do it with care. I can remember having what I considered a "diamond in the rough" and tried to make a depression just a little bit deeper. Well you can guess what happened.. it crumbled after the final blow with a hammer and chisel. }8-(. Boo Hiss.. But never fear, a solution can be found! Have you ever heard of "featherstone?" I've used it in two of my plantings.

Featherstone is a natural occurring volcanic material. I think it is mined somewhere in Utah, shipped to California and sold back to a local stone company called Salt Lake Stone. This is a stone company in Salt Lake that has a lot of stone used in landscaping and for fireplaces. They also have what they call "grotto stone" that is very interesting. It is used in making natural waterfalls and such. Very good for bonsai!! Except you buy the stone by the pound and some rocks are very heavy }8-(. Featherstone is a grey, glassy material that is very light. It is full of very tiny air pockets and can be carved just like plaster of paris. But be sure and wear gloves. It is very sharp and can cut you just like a piece of glass. I went through about two pair of gloves working with it. Feather stone is porous enough that water actually percolates through it.

When I plant on rocks I always use a soil less mixture. Usually the normal bonsai mix will wash away. You've got to have something sticky enough to hold up until the roots grow through it and make a firm rootball. I used to get the mixture from the bonsai nursery. He called it mica-peat. It was made up of very small pieces of mica and peat moss and some other humusy things. He can't get that material any more. He has had to go to another soil less mixture. It doesn't look as good. It has big pieces of perlite in it that distracts from the design. It looks like it snowed. If I want to make it look better I'll screen out the large pieces or take the time to pick them off the top of the surface after the tree is planted.

The soil less mixture is also referred to as "muck" or "goop." I found a local nursery store that sell something called...(memory, don't fail me now!) Sunshine mix #3 (or was it #1?.. Oh OH my age is showing) That makes it very convenient. I don't have to make a trip to Salt Lake each time I need some. It looks a lot like the stuff commercial nurseries use for growing bedding plants.

You were concerned about salt build up. I don't think that is an immediate problem. Being a soil less mixture, you start out with a very clean medium. After a while you could get a salt build up from fertilizers and such. When I water my rock plantings I really pour it on. I make sure I

get a lot of water running off the rock. I hope this keeps the salts washed away. It seems to have worked so far. On one of my forest plantings is on featherstone, I had a hard time deciding when it was watered enough. I poked a few holes in the bottom of the rock with a screwdriver and now I can look underneath the rock and see it drain away. It has worked out pretty good.

Well enough of my daily ramblings. If I can answer your questions, please ask. Some of this stuff can be boring. Good luck.

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: Thu, 20 Aug 1992 18:54:00 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: Re: Shadow's question about rock planting.  
In-Reply-To: <01GNTCLMSS448Y5P8B\*@mrgate.uwyo.edu>

Gracias, Keith. That rock planting information is exactly the kind of information I was looking for. I think it would be rather beautiful if I could find a piece of Rose Quartz to plant in. But alas, the last time I was out at the vein, I didn't see anything right on the surface that had the right shape.

Featherstone -- hmmm. Is it kind of like a large piece of pumice? Are the holes in it smaller? I might have to see if there is anything like a landscaping store in the town that might carry it.

Kirk Haines  
theshado@outlaw.uwyo.edu

=====

Date: Fri, 21 Aug 1992 09:27:00 -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: Shadow's question about rock planting.

Gracias, Keith. That rock planting information is exactly the kind of information I was looking for. I think it would be rather beautiful if I could find a piece of Rose Quartz to plant in. But alas, the last time I was out at the vein, I didn't see anything right on the surface that had the right shape.

Featherstone -- hmmm. Is it kind of like a large piece of pumice? Are the holes in it smaller? I might have to see if there is anything like a landscaping store in the town that might carry it.

Hi Kirk:

It is more glassy, sharper looking than pumice. My wife had a piece of pumice she used on her feet. I think that was *\*very\** light, sandstone, material. It was a smooth and round, about the size of an egg.

This featherstone is the same color as my wife's pumice but more brittle, glassy, sharp looking. There aren't really round holes as such in the stone. It looks very volcanic, with small sharp projections. Like you've taken molten grey glass and injected small air pockets into it and then kinda smoothed it out. The stone company in Salt Lake had a big bin of the stuff. Some of the rocks were 3' or more in diameter. I crawled around in the bin looking for the right piece and really tore up my shoes. They were a pair of leather casual shoes and after I stubbed my toe a few time and a couple of slips they were *\*so\** scuffed. I don't think I ever got them back to a decent shine. The stuff is murder on your hands and anything it brushes against.

I think if you have a local stone store, and describe it to them, they should know what your talking about. Hope'a Hope'a If I can be of any more help, let me know.

Keith

Keith Sedgwick           ###           Bonsai is not a race because  
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Happy Growing.

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Date: Mon, 24 Aug 1992 12:04:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Disaster in Logan

Hello:

Guess what? I had my usual summer disaster strike, only with a new twist. Friday night after work it got quite windy. I set all my bonsai down off the benches that are built into the deck. I do this quite often when the wind blows, no big deal. Well, about midnight I'm just dropping off to sleep and I hear this loud BANG. I went out on the deck and turned on the flood lights. I had forgotten to wind down the umbrella that goes up through a round, glass topped picnic table. The wind had caught the umbrella and lifted the whole table up and tipped it over among the trees sitting on the deck. }8-(((.

I usually get a few trees that tip over or fall of the benches because of the wind, but I've never had the table tip over because I forgot to wind down the umbrella. It is my own fault. My son had his first football game Friday night, and in all the excitement I just forgot.

It uprooted several trees, broke some brances and a pot. Saturday morning I went to the store and bought some crazy glue and glued some branches back on that were not completely torn off. Needless to say I didn't have a very good weekend. This is just another lesson for me to learn. Luckily, it looks like I'm only going to loose a Jade plant. No great loss. (That is to say, if the rest survive the repotting at this time of the year.) The Jade plant won't be very hard to replace. Live and learn.

This morning I watched the weather channel on TV talk about the hurricane in Florida. I wonder how the bonsai nurseries and growers in southern Florida protect their trees. Any guesses?

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, 24 Aug 1992 15:49:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Penjing Style

Hi Rando:

I've been thinking about your new elm. I would like to try grow a tree in the penjing style. You said you had a book on penjing style. Could you tell me the name, publisher and author? Do you like the book? Does the book tell you how to grow penjing trees, or is it just pictures? If it is just pictures, I wonder if you can be "self taught" by looking and studying them. Does your book tell the name of the species used? (I should just go out and buy the book, and quit bugging you with all these questions.)

I wonder what kind of tree to use. I would like to get something that grows indoors, is a fast grower, and is not too expensive just in case it dies. I was thinking about a Brush Cherry or Azalea. You probably need a species that branches back very readily so there is a lot of new growth to clip and use for the branches and the trunk. Does your book list any tropical trees that you can use indoors?

Do any of you besides Rando, have any trees styled in the Penjing Style? If you have any suggestions on the kind of tree to use, please let me know.  
Thanks.

Keith

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Happy Growing.

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Date: Tue, 25 Aug 1992 08:36:00 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: Disaster in Logan  
In-Reply-To: <01GNZQHFVD2O8WW3ZS\*@mrgate.uwyo.edu >

> This morning I watched the weather channel on TV talk about the  
> hurricane in Florida. I wonder how the bonsai nurseries and growers in  
> southern Florida protect their trees. Any guesses?  
>  
> Keith

(\*Laugh\*) Pray a lot? Actually, I can only think of a couple of ways that might be practical. One would be similar to a cold frame, except that the top would be 1/2 inch plywood reinforced with 2 x 4's or something similar. I have a feeling, however, that in most places in Florida, the water table may be too high to do this for very large trees without having them sitting in their own baby lake. The other would be simply to build a low shelter with a mind toward resisting flying debris and high winds -- angled along the line of the prevailing direction of storms' winds, sturdy walls (panels of 3/4 inch plywood, perhaps) reinforced with an understructure of triangular shapes, etc... I know it is a task I wouldn't appreciate. The remains of hurricane Lester are just leaving this area, and it just convinces me all the more that I do NOT ever want to live in a costal area prone to hurricanes. Lester brought in the most awful weather! I don't think the high yesterday reached the low 50's, and I think it was probably the upper 40's. There was several feet of snow in northern Wyoming and southern Montana, and if our altitude here had been a few thousand feet higher, we may have seen snow, also. The mountains above about 10400 or 10500 feet did.

Have a nice day,

Kirk Haines  
theshado@Outlaw.uwyo.edu

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Date: Wed, 26 Aug 1992 08:35:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
Subject: Trees That Deserve to be Noticed for Bonsai.

Hello:

The following is an article from our club's monthly newsletter. It is written by Ben Skolari, owner of Ben's House of Bonsai in Salt Lake City, UT.

"I would like to mention several trees that would make very nice bonsai which are never used for bonsai, or seen in bonsai books or used in work shops by bonsai masters. *Eugenia myrtifolia* commonly known as brush cherry. It has small glossy dark green leaves, white puffy flowers followed by fuchsia colored fruit. The trunk develops very rapidly in four or five years. It can be used in any of the bonsai styles or in rock plantings. *Eugenia* is a tropical plant. Indoors it will grow near a bright sunny window, or outdoors in the summer in a sunny location. *Eugenia* can be shaped by the clip and grow method. It responds to severe pruning, or wiring any time of the year.

Another shrub not too often seen or mentioned is Satinwood, a small genus of trees or shrubs from tropical Asia and Australia. *Murraya paniculata* is the botanical name. This remarkably beautiful specimen has a white fissured bark on the trunk, evergreen leaves, and a long flowering period and is strongly scented. It enjoys sunlight indoors in the winter, and outdoors in the summer.

*Rosmarinus*, an evergreen shrub typical of Mediterranean regions, cultivated in the Mediterranean area both for ornamental purposes and to flavor foods. *Rosmarinus* can be developed into a beautiful specimen bonsai in just a few short years. The trunk has an aged look when it is very young. The foliage is needle like, blue green and it has lavender blue flowers off and on through the year. It makes a striking bonsai on rock plantings. *Rosmarinus* likes a bright sunny location indoors or out. This plant deserves more notice as a specimen bonsai.

These trees that I have mentioned are waiting for you to develop them into bonsai specimens so that they will be noticed among the pines, junipers, maples, and azaleas in the bonsai world."

I have a brush cherry and a rosemary I have been growing about four years and two years, respectively. Both do very well indoors during the winter. The rosemary likes it quite dry and not too much fertilizer. I agree with Ben that these trees should be tried by growers for a good indoor tree during the winter.

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: Wed, 26 Aug 1992 12:28:29 EST  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Andre@LCAEE.FEE.UNICAMP.BR  
Subject: INFORMATION

I would like to have more information about this discussion list.

Thanks,  
Andre L. Goldstein

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Date: Wed, 26 Aug 1992 13:21:56 -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: Penjing Style  
In-Reply-To: Keith Sedgwick's message of Mon,  
24 Aug 1992 15:49:00 -0600 <9208242027.aa05042@eddie.mit.edu>

OK, Keith, what is the Penjing Style? I don't see mention of it in the couple of books I have.

Also - I can't remember whether I mentioned it before, but I potted the abused sugar maple (finally!). It seems to be doing OK so far (it's been 4 whole days). I put it in a pretty large container just so it can kind of recover from its former rough life. I \*did\* trim a little off the top (the packaging for the tree said to cut off 1/3 of it when you plant it! - I cut about 20% off.) It's on my porch, where now it gets filtered sun for a about 2 hours/day. Next week or so I'll move it to a slightly sunnier spot, if it still looks OK. I'm very excited about it!

Anybody out there have a Ming Aralia? I bought one of these from this cheap warehouse place, too. It's pretty thick - little branches are growing out of it's side now. Any recommendations on styles for a Ming Aralia?

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Wed, 26 Aug 1992 11:34:00 PDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: "Lynn Z. Schneider" <lzs@INDETECH.COM>  
Subject: Some Bonsai Questions

Hi!

I'm new to this group. My husband and I have recently developed an interest in Bonsai. We have several small (3-5 year old) ones: a juniper, an azalea, and one of which I forget the variety.

Anyway, we have a few questions that I hope you guys and gals can help us with:

1. We will be going on vacation in November for 3 weeks. We live in Northern Cal and it doesn't get very cold or snow. What is the best way to care for the bonsais during our vacation? We want to specifically know about automatic watering and "grow lamps," if we keep them indoors. Or, should we keep them outdoors? We will be having a person come by to take care of our cat and our place, but not every single day....about 3 days per week.
2. Regarding the Azalea -- I understand that this tree drops its leaves, but is it supposed to constantly? My little bonsai seems to loose a few leaves every couple of days. They turn yellow and drop off. Is this natural, or am I not giving it the proper care? I have it on my desk at work. It gets plenty of natural light, but no direct sunlight. It is flowering very nicely and seems otherwise healthy. I can give it some direct sun, if it needs it.
3. How much sun is a juniper supposed to get? We keep ours outside a lot and it seems to be doing well in direct all-day sunlight. At first we weren't giving it enough sun and it started to turn brown. It seems to be doing much better now.

Thanks to everyone in advance for their advice on these subjects. Also, if you can recommend a good book on bonsai varieties....we have the Sunset book already.

-Lynn

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Date: Wed, 26 Aug 1992 15:49:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>

From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Penjing Style

OK, Keith, what is the Penjing Style? I don't see mention of it in the couple of books I have.

Hi Janice:

Based on what I know about the history of bonsai (which isn't very much) the original idea of growing small trees in trays came from China. Japan took the idea and developed and improved on the methods and techniques. I don't know when Japan started to develop the art. Maybe Tina, who has her degree in Japanese, could let both of us know for sure. Anyway, from what I understand, the Japanese developed the wiring techniques used to "hurry" the Chinese method which was a slower and more natural way. The Chinese method did not use wire. The Chinese used the slower clip and grow method.

The Japanese wanted a faster method. Rather than clip a branch back to a bud that will grow in the right direction required by the style, the Japanese wired the entire branch and bent it to where they wanted it. This was a much faster way to develop a tree.

I've always thought the Chinese style was called "Penjing" style, but I could be wrong. Penjing could be just an individual style and I might be 100% wrong. But I do know it is a Chinese style, using clip and grow techniques.

Also - I can't remember whether I mentioned it before, but I potted the abused sugar maple (finally!). It seems to be doing OK so far (it's been 4 whole days).

(Part deleted)

Yes you did, I've just been too busy to answer you. It sounds great! {8-). I know when I buy a new tree or repot an old one I can sometimes see a National Arboratum subject that I'm sure \*I\* can grow in just a few years.. Ha! Ha!

Anybody out there have a Ming Aralia? I bought one of these from this cheap warehouse place, too. It's pretty thick - little branches are growing out of it's side now. Any recommendations on styles for a Ming Aralia?

I can't remember what a Ming Aralia looks like. Is an Aralia a coffee tree? Boy, I'll have to look that up in some of my garden books. Can you describe the tree?



Well, I've got to get back to work. I'm driving to Salt Lake City tonight for our club meeting. If I learn anything new I'll post it on the network tomorrow if I have time. Thanks for sharing your ideas and news.

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, 27 Aug 1992 08:17:00 -0600  
Reply-To:       Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender:         Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From:           Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
Subject:        Ficus - Aerial Roots

Goodmorning:

Last night I went to our club meeting in Salt Lake City. I talked to our club expert on Banyan trees and how to develop aerial roots. A few weeks ago I posted a message about using large straws. The guy at the club said that method is too much trouble. He uses a different method as described below.

He said right now is the best time of the year to try and develop aerial roots. The day light hours are just about equal to the night time hours. At this time he keeps his banyan trees very warm and \*very\* humid. He emphasized humid. When the conditions are right the branches will start sending out roots. He said you cannot mistake them for branches. They look nothing like a branch and are small, white roots that come off the bottom of the branch and grow downward.

After he gets one or two new roots started on a branch, he mounds up a mixture of "goop" or "muck" (a soilless mixture of peat moss, perlite and other humusy stuff) above the soil level, touching the branch that is sending down the roots. He keeps the mixture moist and still keeps the environment very humid. He keeps the root growing down through the goop, and slowly removes the mixture a little bit at a time from the top down. After a while, the aerial root will reach the soil level and you can remove all of the

remaining goop.

I havn't tried this method so I can't give you much more than what he told me. If any of you try it let us know how it comes out. 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: Thu, 27 Aug 1992 08:53:00 -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: Some Bonsai Questions

Hi Lynn:

Welcome to the network. I'll take a shot at your questions and give you my two cents.

1. We will be going on vacation in November for 3 weeks. We live in Northern Cal and it doesn't get very cold or snow. What is the best way to care for the bonsais during our vacation?

I don't have an automatic watering system. When we go on vacation I get my father to come in and tend my trees once a day. I move them out of the direct sun so he doesn't have to water twice a day. Here in Utah the watering requirements depend a lot on the humidity and the temperature. Our humidity is usually very low and the temperature in the 90's. These conditions require us to water certain trees twice a day if they are in the direct sun. If conditions change and it rains or gets cooler and cloudy, I wouldn't want my automatic watering system coming on twice a day. Then too, different trees have different water requirements. Azaleas like it quite damp, pines and junipers like it on the dry side. I think the best vacation arrangement is to have someone come in and water your trees while you're gone. It is real nice to have another person close by that grows bonsai. You can trade off and water for each other while your away.

## 2. Regarding the Azalea

I havn't had much luck growing azaleas. Our water has a lot of dissolved limestone in it and azaleas \*hate\* lime. I tried another azalea this spring and changed my growing method. It seems like it has survived longer than the ones I've tried to grow in the past. I slowly moved it into direct sunlight by extending the time in the direct sun each day. It is now in full sun all day long and the leaves are not scorched. I've let it grow wild to develop the trunk. It is a forest style and inside where it doesn't get much light the leaves drop off. Like you said, they seem to lose leaves continually as part of the normal growth pattern. If you think it is excessive leaf drop you might want to give it a little more light.

## 3. How much sun is a juniper supposed to get?

I don't think you can give a juniper too much sun. All of my junipers are in direct sun all day long and seem to do quite well. One thing you have to watch for is spider mite. They love junipers.

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, 27 Aug 1992 10:12:00 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: Re: Penjing Style  
In-Reply-To: <01GO2MF5M2O48WWVDD\*@mrgate.uwyo.edu>

- > Anybody out there have a Ming Aralia? I bought one of these
- > from this cheap warehouse place, too. It's pretty thick -
- > little branches are growing out of it's side now. Any
- > recommendations on styles for a Ming Aralia?

I have a Ming Aralia. I've had it for a little over a year, and my guess

is that it is 3 years old. My only recommendation on it's style is to not do a lot to it. Control the growth mostly by rubbing out little nubs of growth that are coming out in directions you don't want before they get any significant growth to them. Let the planting around the Aralia do a lot of the work of setting the mood for the bonsai, so that you don't have to do a tremendous amount with the actual growth of the tree. By far the ugliest bonsai I have ever seen have been Ming Aralia that have had pruning and wiring on more established wood. If possible, leave anything alone that has advanced beyond the bright green color of very fresh growth. Also, you should know that Ming Aralia periodically drop their oldest growth. Occasionally, you will notice that a branch at or near the bottom of the plant is starting to droop and turn yellow. Give it a little time, and it will eventually fall off the plant. This also happens sometimes with individual leaf sections, and is nothing to worry about.

Kirk Haines  
theshado@outlaw.uwyo.edu

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Date: Thu, 27 Aug 1992 13:09:32 EDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: HALLRL@MOREKYPR.BITNET  
Subject: penjing

Penjing:

The book I have on penjing is titled "Chinese Penjing: Miniature trees and landscapes" and was written by Hu Yunhua. It is an excellent book which has some very nice examples and instructions on training plants. It also discusses and contrasts the different styles practised by schools in the chinese provinces. The methods that are used to shape the trees vary from using palm and hemp fibers to shape growth, to the clip and grow method, and the use of iron wire to shape growth. The art was originally developed around the 7th century A.D. and reached Japan around the 13th century. For the most part, penjing seems to be less dominated by rules for composition than bonsai, it seems more open to personal interpretation. Penjing also uses rock landscapes to high degree.

Tina, the japanese maples I am using in my forest planting are of the Tsuma Beni variety. These nine maples are between 3-5 yrs of age and are fairly small, I ordered them from Pine Garden Pottery and Bonsai in Washington state. I don't have the address of Henry Fields with me right now, I'll see if I can find it but you should be able to find

similar deals from other mail order nurseries like Gurneys.

I picked up a very nice Ficus Nerifolia this weekend from the bonsai nursery I visit. It was air layered two years ago from a larger plant so it has nice trunk girth and a very nice taper toward the crown. The best part is it was only \$49. The guy also has a Ficus Benjamina that was dug up this past spring and shipped from Florida, it is about 3-4 feet tall with about a 4-5 inch diameter trunk. It it planted in a pot costing \$110 and the guy only wants \$225! Can you believe that! The tree has a great nebari and is very healthy, the reason it is so cheap is because the guy hasn't had a chance to work on it any this summer. Guess where I'm going in a couple of weeks 8-)!

later Rando

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Date: Thu, 27 Aug 1992 13:34:00 -0600  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET >  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU >  
Subject: Beat me to the Bonsai store.

Rando taunts us by saying:

I picked up a very nice Ficus Nerifolia this weekend from the bonsai nursery I visit. It was air layered two years ago from a larger plant so it has nice trunk girth and a very nice taper toward the crown. The best part is it was only \$49. The guy also has a Ficus Benjamina that was dug up this past spring and shipped from Florida, it is about 3-4 feet tall with about a 4-5 inch diameter trunk. It it planted in a pot costing \$110 and the guy only wants \$225! Can you believe that! The tree has a great nebari and is very healthy, the reason it is so cheap is because the guy hasn't had a chance to work on it any this summer. Guess where I'm going in a couple of weeks 8-)!

OK RANDO!!!

Just what is the name of the place and in what city? If you think I'm going to sit here and read posts like the above and not try to beat you to the store your crazy. Come on! Tell us all! Tee..Hee.. Boy, what a deal. Give me a clue! -- is it East of the Mississippi River. {8-).

Keith

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Date: Thu, 27 Aug 1992 14:45:00 -0600

Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: Keith Sedgwick <KEITH@INTAUD.USU.EDU>  
Subject: Survival Guide for the First-Time Bonsai Buyer.

Hello:

The winter 1992 "World Tropical Bonsai Forum" magazine has given permission to reproduce the following article. It comes in two parts so if I can get the next issue I will also share that with everyone. I think it is good for all of us to go back and think about why we do some things at certain times. For some of us, we have been doing them for so long, we easily forget the reasons.

### "Survival Guide for the First-Time Bonsai Buyer

#### Initial Supplies and the Art of Watering

Leaving the bonsai shop is quite like leaving the hospital with a new baby. If it's your first, you have misgivings and apprehensions. Relax. Bonsai is a lot easier than new babies.

#### What Will you Need?

There are a few maintenance items you may want to purchase before you leave the bonsai shop or garden center, particularly if you don't live close to the shop.

Fertilizer is probably one of the most important. The bonsai dealer will most likely be equipped with the right fertilizer for your tree, and may have it packaged in small quantities. Extra soil is also a good idea. You may have to replace soil that washes away during watering, and the dealer may have a special bonsai soil also packaged in small quantities.

Your tree will eventually need some pruning to keep its shape. Leafy trees will need to have long shoots, or shoots that appear in the wrong places, trimmed back or snipped off. A basic and inexpensive pair of bonsai shears is a good investment. Sharply pointed these shears can reach areas that household scissors find clumsy. Prices vary and you do not need the more expensive tools until your hobby starts to expand.

Training wire is optional, and unless you plan to extend your hobby to the do-it-yourself phase right away, you probably don't need wire. Most bonsai that are sold are already styled and can be maintained with pruning alone.

Most places that sell bonsai also sell a variety of books that cover the horticulture and art involved in bonsai.

A good basic bonsai book answers questions pertinent to different plant materials, serves to guide the novice in matters of styling and maintenance,

and the photos and illustrations offer a good look at examples of different plant materials and the styles they may assume.

For the most part, styling, wiring, potting, container selection etc. is similar for all bonsai. Soil, and growing considerations, however, may not be, since these things may vary with temperature or tropical plant materials. Your dealer can steer you to the reading materials that best suit your needs.

## Watering

Bonsai novices usually lose their first trees to improper watering and failure to follow care instructions faithfully. Your first bonsai does not have to die.

It is best to forget how you water your other plants and learn to properly water bonsai. The need for water depends on the plant material, consistency of the soil, depth of the bonsai container, and climatic environment. \*No single watering schedule can be applied to all bonsai.\* Common sense and a simple daily check are the best prescriptions for proper watering of bonsai.

Some bonsai need lots of water. Others prefer to dry out a bit between waterings. Ask your dealer about the moisture preference of your bonsai.

\*Every bonsai needs to be checked DAILY for soil moisture.\* In very hot or windy weather, or in the low humidity of the northern home in winter, especially with bonsai in small pots, soil moisture should be checked twice a day.

\*The best way to judge if water is needed is to stick your finger an inch or so into the soil.\* If it is moist, it does not need water (unless you plan to be away all of a hot windy day, in which case, soak it before you leave). \*Soil should never be permitted to become bone dry or remain soggy.\*

\*Do not assume that a passing shower will provide the total daily water requirement.\* It takes a lot of rain to thoroughly soak the soil/root mass.

\*Do not partially water.\* Each watering should soak the entire root/soil mass. Overhead watering with a hose or watering can should be sufficient to show a stream of water running out the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. If water puddles on the surface of the soil, let it soak in and then water again until water runs out drainage holes. Use a nozzle that creates a gentle shower rather than a strong stream of water that will blast away soil.

For indoor bonsai, place the bonsai pot in a larger basin and fill the basin with water until the water reaches the rim of the bonsai container. Let the water soak up through the bottom drainage holes until the surface of the soil is soaked. A plastic soda bottle with holes punched in the top acts as a good indoor "hose" for overhead watering.

\*Misting is not a method of watering.\* It provides a little extra humidity for a short period and cleans and refreshes leaves, but plants absorb water primarily through the roots.

Bonsai should never remain soggy, and should never be left to sit in

water. \*If you are worried about your bonsai drying out, particularly tiny bonsai, you can sink the entire pot up to the rim in a container of damp sand or pebbles to retard moisture loss.\*

If your tree dries to the point of wilt, wet the foliage and soil, and place in a shady spot until it has recovered. Gradually move it back into sun as tolerated.

### Is It Really Dead?

Maybe not. Mistakes in watering often result in leaf drop, but not necessarily death.

\*Many bonsai whose leaves turn brown and drop off are showing stress from either improper watering or drastic change in temperature or light.\*

In the case of water deprivation, many trees, particularly many tropical varieties, drop leaves in an effort to control moisture loss. Before you through the tree out, make sure it is really dead. Scratch the bark on a twig. If it is green underneath, the tree is still alive and will probably refoliate quite soon, especially in the growing season. If dry and brown, the twig is dead, but the larger branch it is attached to may still be alive.

Test the bark on the large branch the same way, and other random woody parts of the tree to see which parts are still alive.

In winter, water, temperature, or light stressed INDOOR bonsai may lose all their leaves and remain naked until spring.

Leafless trees do not lose much moisture, and soil should be kept damp, not wet. Do not attempt to hurry new foliage with heavy fertilizing. Wait until new growth starts to emerge, and fertilize lightly for a while.

Vacation watering should be done by someone reliable who will follow your instructions faithfully. Or you can ask your bonsai dealer if he or she boards bonsai.

Once you have mastered the art of watering, your chances of success with subsequent bonsai are vastly improved.

Lighting and Feeding will be covered in the next issue."

Whew, my fingers are tired. Pant..pant..

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, 27 Aug 1992 17:46:25 CDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: tina@ILS.NWU.EDU  
Subject: bonsai crew cuts

Hi everyone -- and thanks Rondo for that great background on penjing! (I can tell you what century Kabuki hit Japan, and all the deliciously sordid details about its development, but, alas, no courses on bonsai!) I'll keep checking on sources for bonsai nurseries, etc, even if Keith beats us there first!

Well, yesterday was my first try at pruning with prudence...used my fingernails to pinch back and prune some of the fading secondary branches from my Juniper. Looks a little like a wet cat. But its better than my earlier tries...I'm hoping that some secondary branches grow back or are filled in with new ones. Put on another layer of soil (someone had mentioned, I think, about soil eroding with watering and time -- indeed, after looking carefully, some tender webby roots were exposed on topsoil!).

Yesterday, I noticed a \*medium sized spider\* on the tree! Is this the dreaded spider of spider mite (might) fame?! Am I in for it? (What do I look for?)

From my tree to Keith's trees and the trees in Florida (Hurricane), California (Fire),

OUCH! Grow back soon!

Tina Jones

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Date: Fri, 28 Aug 1992 08:49:36 -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: Re: Penjing Style  
In-Reply-To: The Shadow's message of Thu,  
27 Aug 1992 10:12:00 MDT <9208271632.AA25427@relay1.UU.NET>

Thanks Kirk! My Ming Aralia seems pretty happy right now, all green and lush (seems to love this incredible humidity we're having here - 93% yesterday, but no rain!). Now I know not to freak out when the lower branches yellow/droop.

Janice Ritter  
ritter@ileaf.com

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Date: Fri, 28 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: bonsai crew cuts

Hi Tina:

details about its development, but, alas, no courses on bonsai!) I'll keep checking on sources for bonsai nurseries, etc, even if Keith beats us there first!

Only if I put a "tail" on Rando. I feel like the Joker (Jack Nickelson) in Batman when he said "...Where does he (Batman, or in this case Rando) get these fabulous toys (Bonsai)..". Rando won't even tell me if it is East of the Mississippi. }8-( Now thats cheap!!

Well, yesterday was my first try at pruning with prudence...used my fingernails to pinch back and prune some of the fading secondary branches from my Juniper.

It is always scary to do some pruning on a tree you are trying to grow. After talking to Rando, I finally got brave enough to nip some of the new growth on my buttonwood and it looks like it will survive.

I was reading a bonsai article last night about styling. The author said nature can have "flaws" in a normal size tree that you don't notice because your eyes move around the normal sized tree and cannot take in the whole picture at once. When you look at a bonsai the flaws are immediately noticeable because you can see the entire tree. He also said that a tree with fewer branches makes a more dramatic visual statement. He said if a branch does not add to the style then it should be removed. I kept this in mind this morning when I watered my trees. I think some of my trees would look like telephone poles. Just kidding. However, I did look at them differently this morning.

When you prune your juniper you can only "pinch" new growth. A guy at our last club meeting said if you want a low maintenance tree, you shouldn't buy a Nana procumbens juniper. I think he was referring to all the pinching you have to do, to keep the branches full and in check. If you have to remove some older growth you will probably have to cut it with some sissors.

Pinching only works on very tender new growth.

Looks a little like a wet cat.

Better than a dead cat. (Smile) {8-}.

earlier tries...I'm hoping that some secondary branches grow back or are filled in with new ones.

Tina, I would make sure it gets a lot of good light. I think light has a lot to do with stimulating new growth.

mentioned, I think, about soil eroding with watering and time -- indeed, after looking carefully, some tender webby roots were exposed on topsoil!).

Eventually, you will want to expose a few roots on the surface of the soil to make the tree look older and provide stability to the design.

Yesterday, I noticed a \*medium sized spider\* on the tree! Is this the dreaded spider of spider mite (might) fame?! Am I in for it? (What do I look for?)

As long as they stay \*medium sized\* your OK. It is the very small ones you cannot see that you have to worry about. If you knock some off on to a piece of white paper and it looks like moving paprika dust, get help quick. Spider mites hate water. Its been said, you can wash them off with a strong stream of water. You might have to spray the tree a couple of times. I've never trusted just water, so I usually spray with an insecticide. My trees are outside and they always pickup a few "gardians" of the tree (spiders). They find the branch arrangement perfect for their webs. I don't think normal spiders do any damage.

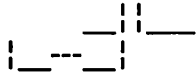
Well, I've got to get to work. I'll talk to you later. Oh! by the way, for all you bonsai growers that are sports fans, Logan High lost their first junior varsity football game 38 to 2. Boo...Hiss }8-(. I know all of you were waiting for that sport headline. Chuckle..Chuckle.

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, 28 Aug 1992 23:51:00 EDT  
Reply-To: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
Sender: Bonsai Discussion List <BONSAI@WAYNEST1.BITNET>  
From: HALLRL@MOREKYPR.BITNET  
Subject: Misc.

> Only if I put a "tail" on Rando. I feel like the Joker (Jack Nickelson)  
> in Batman when he said " ...Where does he (Batman, or in this case Rando) get  
> these fabulous toys (Bonsai).. " Rando won't even tell me if it is East of  
> the Mississippi. }8-( Now thats cheap!!

Well, I guess I better not say anything then... NOT, actually the nursery is called "Amburgey Gardens" in Lexington, KY 8-). And remember Keith, hands off, I saw it first 9-) Actually my brother and I are going back next week with his van to get it, this will be the jem in my collection. If anyone out there goes to Florida much or has family there, check out some of the better nurseries, you should be able to find some great landscaping plants to bonsai.

> When you prune your juniper you can only "pinch" new growth. A guy at  
> our last club meeting said if you want a low maintenance tree, you shouldn't  
> buy a Nana procumbens juniper. I think he was referring to all the pinching  
> you have to do, to keep the branches full and in check. If you have to  
> remove some older growth you will probably have to cut it with some sissors.  
> Pinching only works on very tender new growth.

I prefer to work on chinese junipers since the needles will mature after several years of pinching which helps with maintenance.

> earlier tries...I'm hoping that some secondary branches grow back or are  
> filled in with new ones.  
>  
> Tina, I would make sure it gets a lot of good light. I think light has  
> a lot to do with stimulating new growth.

A definite on the light. To get the plant to bud and create more secondary branches, pinch the plant back in the spring and continue to pinch back through out the growing season, this should stimulate growth from older wood where dormant buds are. Also, you may want to let the secondary branches grow some next season and form tertiary branches which will produce some nice foliage pads eventually.

Janice, I also have a ming aralia in a slanting style. The plant does have a problem with dropping older leaves, and I haven't had much luck with wiring the plant. The branches are too fragile and much pressure will break a branch off in your hands. I've been doing selective pruning to shape the ming. Later...

Rando

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Date: Mon, 31 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: Humidity

Hi Janice:

all green and lush (seems to love this incredible humidity we're having here - 93% yesterday, but no rain!).

I cannot believe your humidity can be that high and not have rain. I don't think our humidity gets that high even in a downpour. {8-}. Do you have any problem with algae growing on the soil.

This year it has been so dry I've had to water my trees very often, some times twice a day. Because of the watering schedule, algae starts to grow on the surface of the soil. Its growing on the soilless mixture I use for rock plantings, or in shallow pots where regular bonsai soil washes away. Its the Sunshine Mix #1, that I was talking about a few weeks ago. It is made up mostly of peat moss and perlite and maybe composted bark.

Once the algae (looks like green slime) starts to grow, the little bit of moss I'm trying so hard keep green, won't spread out and replace the algae. In fact it looks like on some trees the algae starts to replace the moss. I don't think the algae hurts the trees but it doesn't look very good.

Does anyone have an idea on how to get rid of the algae without damaging the tree? I wonder if a fungicide would do anything to it? If any of you have any suggestions please let me know. Thanks.

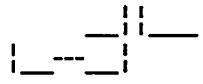
Keith

.....

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

#.#####.###

Happy Growing.



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