OUTDOOR BONSAI

Outdoor Bonsai include Juniper, Pine, Cedar, Cypress, Japanese Maple, Azalea, Flowering Quince, and many more!

LIGHT

Most outdoor bonsai trees need sunlight for at least a few hours a day. Without enough light, internodes and leaves may grow too large, and the tree may become more susceptible to pests and disease. Most conifers should be placed in full sun for healthy growth.

SOIL

For outdoor bonsai, use a bonsai mix like Sol Soils Gritty Bonsai Mix or Espoma's Bonsai Mix.

WATER

Check the soil regularly and water when it begins to dry, but never let the root ball dry out completely. Water thoroughly, let excess drain, and empty the saucer to prevent root rot. Ensure the pot has plenty of drainage. Reduce watering when growth slows in cooler months.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize during the growing season, early spring through mid-fall, with a balanced fertilizer or fertilizer formulated for bonsai, following product directions. Avoid fertilizing directly after repotting to avoid stressing the tree.

TEMPERATURE

Outdoor bonsai can tolerate a wide range of temperatures when properly cared for. It is important for most species to provide protection from severe frost in the winter. In spring, when the new leaves emerge, protect tender new growth from late frosts. The use of a cold frame or other shielding may be necessary. Temperate outdoor bonsai should remain outdoors through winter dormancy rather than being brought into a heated home.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Under or over watering is a common challenge for new bonsai parents. Striking a good moisture balance will depend on the soil, pot size, and the type of tree being cultivated. Learn how your tree cycles through water by observing the soil's moisture in the days after watering.

Bonsai care requires patience. Avoid combining major pruning, heavy styling, and repotting at the same time unless the species and tree health allow it. Give the tree time to recover between major stresses.

This guide provides general bonsai care. Always check the specific requirements of your tree species, as light, temperature, watering, pruning, and winter care can vary significantly. For more species-specific guidance, visit Bonsai Empire's website!

PRUNING & SHAPING

Bonsai must be trained to maintain their shape and dense foliage. Light maintenance pruning can be done during active growth as needed to refine the tree's shape. Wires can help shape a tree gently and gradually, but never force a branch! Check the root system periodically and repot when the tree becomes root-bound or the soil structure begins to break down. Spring is generally the best time for repotting.

PET FRIENDLY?

Pet safety varies by species. Always verify the specific tree before placing it where pets may chew the foliage or bark.

Azalea, Boxwood, Cherry and Plum are among bonsai that are not safe for pets.