

Tropical Bonsai

Tropical trees make excellent indoor bonsai as they do not require a cold winter dormancy, although they do prefer to be outdoors for the summer. Some common tropical bonsai varieties include FICUS, SCHEFFLERA, JADE, FUJIAN TEA, BRAZILIAN RAIN TREE, SERISSA, PODOCARPUS, and many more!

Water

Thoroughly soak the soil when surface is dry to touch. Some people prefer to let their bonsai sit in a water bath for several minutes and let the soil soak up water from the bottom. You should check the soil everyday! They also enjoy an occasional shower.

Light

Most tropical varieties will enjoy bright, indirect light, near an east facing window is ideal. Some varieties enjoy direct sun from a south or west window. Always acclimate your bonsai when bringing outdoors for the summer months. Most will do well in dappled light or morning sun.

Fertilizing

Apply a mild organic fertilizer (equal parts NPK), liquid or pellet form, spring through summer. Neptune's Harvest with Seaweed is an excellent product. The seaweed strengthens immunity. For flowering tropical bonsai, like Natal Plum or Bougainvillea, use a summer fertilizer with higher Phosphorous for bloom production.

Temperature & Humidity

Tropical bonsai love the fresh air of summer outside when the temperature has warmed to 60° or higher. When the nights begin to cool bring your bonsai indoors. For the winter months it is very important to provide extra humidity. Create a dry well with pebbles and water to set your bonsai on, this will increase ambient humidity.

Cleanliness

Always keep your bonsai clean of old leaves. It is a natural process to shed older leaves which can litter the soil. Keeping the soil free of debris eliminates the chance of disease and insect pests.

Info sheets adapted from:

new england bonsai gardens · 508 883 2842 · www.nebonsai.com

