

## WHAT IS

# Bonsai?

BONSAI, the ancient art of growing and keeping miniature trees. Literally translated from Japanese, Bonsai means "planted in a container."

Unlike what is commonly thought, Bonsai is not a genetically dwarfed plant. A Bonsai is kept miniature by combining several techniques, including regular pruning and wiring.



Mr. Miyagi

## BONSAI

### History

ALTHOUGH the word 'Bonsai' is Japanese, the art it describes (Penjing) originated in the Chinese empire well over 2000 years ago.

About a 1000 years ago, the Japanese copied the Chinese art and adapted it to their local circumstances.

In the West, Bonsai was introduced only recently (late 19th century), where it became increasingly popular.



## BONSAI

### Styles

Bonsai are traditionally styled to reflect many common natural situations.

These styles range from the calm and stately Formal Upright style characterized by a straight vertical trunk to the Cascade style which is inspired by trees clinging for their lives from the side of a mountain.

Other designs reflect a tree's endurance to overcome nature's persistent elements such as in Literati and Wind Swept styles.



FORMAL UPRIGHT



INFORMAL UPRIGHT



SLANTING



WINDSWEPT



SEMI CASCADE



CASCADE



FOREST



MULTIPLE TRUNK



LITERATI

## BONSAI

### Training & Shaping

A common misconception is that the plants used for Bonsai are genetically 'dwarfed' plants. Bonsai trees are normal plants, propagated like any other, but trained using sophisticated techniques to keep them small. The training includes basics like regular pruning and wiring, but also more advanced styling techniques such as creating deadwood.

**PRUNING;** by regular pruning we keep the tree in the determined shape.

**WIRING;** by wrapping wire around branches of the tree we are able to bend these, to achieve our determined shape.

**TOOLS;** several specialized tools were developed, including a concave cutter and twig shears.

**REPOTTING;** since bonsai trees are held in small pots, regular repotting is required to replenish nutrients in the soil.



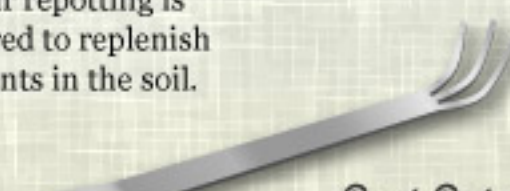
Shears



Concave Cutters



Copper Wire



Root Rake



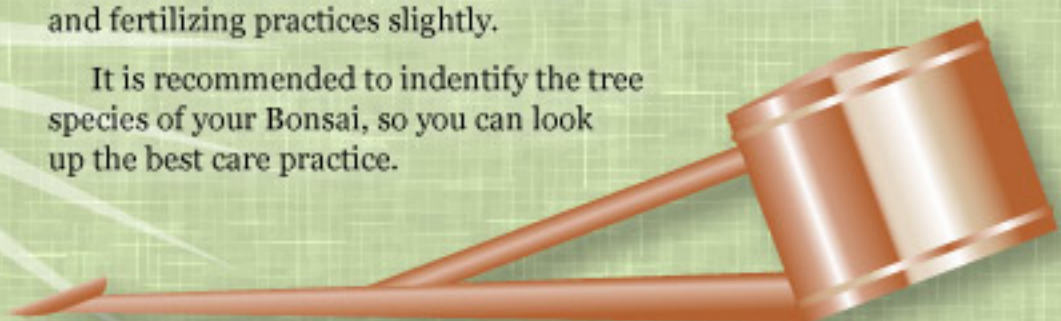
Rectangular Pot

## BONSAI

### Care

BONSAI TREES are plants like any other, but since they're put in such small pots we need to adapt watering and fertilizing practices slightly.

It is recommended to identify the tree species of your Bonsai, so you can look up the best care practice.



TWO NEEDLE PINE



CHINESE ELM



FICUS