

# THE ART OF BONSAI WATERING

Watering is the single most important aspect of bonsai care. If your goal is to be successful with your bonsai we suggest that you pay close attention to the subtleties of proper watering.

## CHECK THE SOIL REGULARLY

If you are a beginner, it is very important to check your bonsai regularly (this could mean daily) for water. If you pay attention, the soil will tell you when to water.

## AVOID BONE DRY SOIL

This is critical. Never let the soil completely dry out (be particularly careful on sunny days). Don't be afraid to stick your finger into the soil.

## AVOID CONSISTENTLY SOGGY SOIL

No part of the soil should be allowed to stay soggy. Try to avoid watering wet sections. Drying down (but not becoming bone dry) between waterings is very important.

## ADJUST TO CHAGING CONDITIONS

Your bonsai will need frequent watering when the weather is hot and plants are growing vigorously. Conversely, your bonsai may need less frequent watering during damp, cool or cloudy conditions. If your bonsai is in the house, air-conditioning, heating and other factors can influence how fast the soil dries down. Pot size can have an effect, as can the type of tree, soil mix and the placement of your bonsai.

## HOW TO WATER

Though many people soak their bonsai in standing water, we prefer top watering. The best way to top water your bonsai is to run the water gently onto the soil for five or ten seconds, three or four times, with a few seconds between each time. If you have to water more than three or four times to satisfy yourself that the soil is well soaked, then do it as many times as you see fit. Be sure to allow the water to run over and through the needles or leaves when watering.

## UNEVEN DRYING DOWN

Some bonsai have dense older soil close to the trunk and fresh faster draining soil closer to the edge of the pot. Often the older soil will stay wet while the fresher soil further from the trunk dries out. In this case you may sometimes have to avoid watering the wet soil while watering the drier soil.

Watering may sound a little complicated at first, but don't be discouraged. It is not really difficult. The secret is to learn the needs of your bonsai by paying attention. Once you have developed the habit of paying attention, you will see how simple and straightforward the art of watering can be.

If you have any question please call, write or drop by:

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