

BONSAI MAINTENANCE CHART - EVERGREEN SPECIES

Extract from "Masters Book of Bonsai" by Nobukichi Koide, Saburo Kato & Fusazo Takeyama

SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	REPOTTING	FEEDING	BUDTRIMMING	TRAINING	PESTS	REMARKS
Five needle pine (White pine)	Symbolic of Japanese scenery. Valued for its refined appearance & perennial greenness	Once every five or six years, late Sept or Spring	Two or three times in Spring - once in Autumn	Nip overgrown buds before they open.	April - Oct	Spider mites Needle cast	Pick off buds thoroughly in December if tree is strong and healthy
Needle Juniper	Hard trunk, leaves. Masculine appearance	Once every two or three years, early Sept or rainy season.	Dry fertiliser in Spring & Autumn	Nip overgrown buds occasionally.	Any time when warm	Spider mites	Protect from wintery winds and dry air.
Black Pine	Masculine appearance	Once every four or five years in Sept or Oct or Autumn	Two or three times in Spring, once in Autumn	Nip buds before they open.	Winter	Scale insects Witch's broom	
Red Pine	Feminine and elegant appearance	Once every four or five years late Sept or early Oct	Oct and Nov. Once in April. Avoid rainy season and Summer	Nip buds before they open.	March and following Sept	Spider mites Scale insects Needle cast	
Ezo Spruce	Rust coloured bark, fine needles	Once every four to six years early Sept or Oct or April-May	Continuous feeding Sept-May except rainy seasons	Trim in January to leave flower buds	March and following Sept	Spider mites Witch's broom	
Sargent Juniper	Grows in high mountains. Trunk bent by natural forces.	Once every two or three years, May or very early Spring.	Sept -Dec. Also in Autumn	Pluck overgrown buds while soft.	Winter	Spider mites	
Cryptomeria	Grows straight. Symbolic of mountains. Noble appearance.	Once every two to four years in Sept. Avoid Autumn & Spring	Oct to Apr	Nip overgrown buds occasionally	Avoid Autumn and Winter	Spider mites Blight	
Japanese Cypress	Beautiful pattern on leaves	Once every three years, late Sept	Oct and in Autumn	Trim twigs with too many leaves at end.	Late Sept.	Pestalotia disease	
Japanese Yew	Contrast between old, refined looking bark and leafy foliage	Once every other year, late Sept	Oct -Nov. Also liquid feeding twice in Autumn	Trim unhealthy long branches occasionally	April and Nov	Relatively free of insects.	
Hemlock Spruce	Member of the pine family. Old yet light, cheerful appearance.	Young tree repotted once every other year, old tree once every three or four years, late Sept- Nov.	Thinned liquid fertiliser when buds come out. Feeding in Dec and April.	Shoots grow fast. Trim long shoots to about 1.8cm.	Trim branches and wire in April.	Relatively free of insects.	
Port Jackson Fig	Bright glossy green leaves. Sometimes will grow aerial roots.	Re-pot every other year, old trees one every 3-5 years.	Liquid fertiliser mid Summer-Autumn.	Nip buds and trim long growth Dec and January.	December and March		Do not overwater. Re-pot in Dec.

Be aware that local climate conditions may vary according to your location

BONSAI MAINTENANCE CHART - DECIDUOUS NON-FLOWERING SPECIES

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SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	REPOTTING	FEEDING	BUDTRIMMING	TRAINING	PESTS	REMARKS
Kaede Maple	Beauty of leaves - especially young or reddened leaves	Once every two or three years. Late September.	Excessive fertiliser Oct and May causes branches to be either too strong or too weak.	Occasionally nip overgrown buds.	Best during rainy season.	Scale insects White spotted longicorn	
Momiji Maple	Beauty of leaves, like Kaede Maple. Red leaves considered to be "king of Leaves"	Once every year or every other year.	Sufficient fertiliser in Oct. Excessive fertiliser causes thick branches.	Occasionally	During rainy season when tree is soft.	Scale insects White spotted longicorn	
Wax Tree	Wax tree	Beautiful reddening of leaves in Autumn.	Yearly for those in small or shallow pots: Once every other year for those in large pots, late September	Nip buds and prune long branches occasionally.	Wiring any time	Relatively free of insects	
Maiden Hair (Ginkgo)	Seasonally bare - green leaves and yellow leaves	Yearly late in September.	Occasionally, with constant manuring	Cut off unhealthy long branches. Leave short flowering branches.	Branches in September. Wire new twigs in early summer.	Pestalotia disease Violet root rot.	Cuttings to be planted in late September.
Ivy	Glossy green leaves	Yearly before budding.	Spring and Autumn	Occasionally	Trim growing vines.	Boston Ivy tiger moth.	Cuttings should be cut in mid winter and kept in water until late September.
Zelkova Tree	Tall Tree with fan shaped branches. Bare in Winter.	Once every other year, late September.	Excessive feeding causes gnarls at joints, Insufficient fertiliser causes irregular branch tips.	Cut long vines	Any time.	Aphids	Wire loosely. Must be taken off as soon as possible.
Beech	Brownish, dead leaves on the tree have their own beauty.	Once a year or every other year before budding.	A modicum, occasionally.	Cut off tips of overgrown buds early.	Scissor pruning	Relatively free of insects	
Carpinus	Most beautiful when buds come out in spring. Light red and yellow leaves in Autumn. Best suited for group planting.	Once every other year, mid September.	Dry and liquid fertiliser in October and March. Avoid excessive feeding.	Nip buds before they open.	Winter to rainy season.	aphids	Occasionally shorten unhealthy long branches.

BONSAI MAINTENANCE CHART - DECIDUOUS FLOWERING SPECIES

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SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	REPOTTING	FEEDING	BUDTRIMMING	TRAINING	PESTS	REMARKS
Plum	Red or white blossoms before spring. Interesting branches.	Once every year or every other year immediately after blossoms fall.	Twice after three weeks re-potting till Nov. Liquid Mar - April	Trim after flowering. Do not nip buds, trim with flowers in mind.	Winter. New twigs in March.	<i>Ume</i> cankerworm <i>Ume</i> bud moths	
Winter jasmine	Sharp, yellow 6-petal blossoms in early Spring before any leaves. Stems somewhat resemble ivy.	Yearly, before or after blossoms, or in late March.	Dry fertiliser in Spring: sufficient liquid fertiliser in April. Avoid rainy season.	Occasionally trim sickly overgrown branches. Prune old branches after blossoms fall.	After blossoms, at same time as branch trimming.	Longicorn beetles	
Cherry	Symbol of Japan. Beautiful blossoms every Spring.	Yearly in April or before budding	Twice between budding and rainy season. Twice in Autumn.	After blossoms. Leave a little of blossoming branches - cut the rest.	In Winter after blossoms.	Black-marked prominent	Wrap paper-covered wire loosely for wiring operation.
Flowering quince	Scarlet or thin red florets on simple, stout branches in Winter or Spring.	Yearly in April.	Dry fertiliser occasionally, except in rainy season.	Nip overgrown buds only.	Scissor pruning.	Mulberry bagworm. Rust	
Satsuki Azalea	Member of azalea family. Elementary for bonsai. Blossoms between mid-Nov and mid-Dec.	Once every year or every other year in early Spring or after blossoms.	Liquid for flower in Spring. Dry fertiliser occasionally, except rainy season.	After blossoms fall.	Only in spring and Summer.	Azalea lace bug, rose arge, spider mites.	Buds in early Jan. Branches of old trees break easily, so handle with care.
Crab Apple	Thin red pipe shaped blossoms Oct-Nov.	Yearly, late Sept.	Dry or liquid fertiliser from Spring to rainy season. Liquid fertiliser in March.	Match branch ends after blossoms fall. Shorten long branches after Dec.	Old branches in Winter	Aphids	
Dwarf rhododendron	Deciduous bush in high mountains. White or thin red blossoms in centre of oblong smooth leaves in early Summer.	Every other year in early October.	Two or three times in Spring. Dry fertiliser in autumn.	Shorten flowering branches after blossoming.	Scissor-prune branches unfit for wiring.	Azalea cottony scale.	In Summer, place in cool place. Sufficient water with good drainage.
Crape myrtle	Smooth bark. Scarlet-purple florets Jan-March	Yearly in late October.	Amount depends on bud conditions. Sufficient in Autumn.	After blossoms fall.	In Summer, after blossoms fall.	Crape myrtle scale, oriental moth, aphids.	Shorter: old branches on vigorous tree for more flowers.
Camelia	Lovely scarlet or white flowers in Winter or Spring.	Yearly, October and Autumn.	Liquid fertiliser occasionally, Spring and Autumn.	Trim in January to leave flower buds.	During rainy season.	Oriental moth, tea tussock moth.	Plant cuttings when buds become firm.

BONSAI MAINTENANCE CHART - DECIDUOUS FRUIT-BEARING SPECIES

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SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	REPOTTING	FEEDING	BUDTRIMMING	TRAINING	PESTS	REMARKS
Boxthorn	Numerous red fruit in Summer.	Later September.	Keep feeding constantly. Add extra super phosphate.	To produce more fruit on new branches, shorten old branches when in early Summer.	Avoid damaging old branches, as they break easily.	Scale insects	Summer repotting produces good results.
Elaeagnus	Numerous small red fruit in Summer.	Late September.	Occasionally, as much as deemed necessary.	Cut off long branches after flowering and when tree starts to bear fruit.	Occasionally.	Scale insects	
Dwarf kumquat Ardisia	Dwarf kumquat, bearing oblong orange-coloured fruit in late Autumn.	In Oct. after weather becomes warm enough.	Continuous dry and liquid fertiliser except when bearing fruit. Abundant phosphorous	Cut off unhealthy long branches as they never bear fruit. Leave only thick, short leaves.	Summer.	Arrowhead scale, margarodid scale, citrus dog, smaller citrus dog, citrus leaf minor, yellow patched swallowtail	Must be protected against cold weather.
Chinese Quince	Red buds and large white flowers. Large fruit Autumn-Winter.	Yearly in Spring, late March or April.	Modicum after re-potting. No fertiliser after flowers. Phosphate after bearing fruit.	Preserve only short, flowering branches.	Branches should not be bent.	Aphids.	
Pomegranate	Deep scarlet flowers in Summer. Fist sized fruit in Autumn which burst open when ripe.	In October, warm weather.	Occasionally. Abundant phosphate.	Shorten sickly long branches after flowers bloom.	Summer.	Scale insects thick legged moth, oriental leopard moth.	Shorten un-needed branches to yield more fruit.
Jujube	Thin yellow florets in Dec or Jan. Green oblong fruit ripen in Autumn	Yearly in early October.	Fish meal after re-potting. Feed once a month after fruit ripen.	Cut extra branches after flowering buds appear.	Scissor pruning in Winter.	Relatively free of insects and diseases.	
Pear	White neat blossoms in early Summer. Large fruit Summer and Autumn	Yearly, immediately before buds come out.	Fish meal after re-potting. Feed once a month after fruit ripen.	Shorten sickly long branches, leave short flowering branches	Scissor pruning in Winter.	Scale insects, aphids and rust.	Prone to disease and insects. Lime-sulphur mixture in Spring. Disinfect.
Japanese Spindle	Deep scarlet fruit in Autumn.	Yearly, before budding.	Occasionally add fish meal for better yield	Shorten non-flowering branches.	No wiring.	Scale insects	
False Bittersweet	Numerous small fruit in Autumn.	Once every year or other year in late Sept.	Dry fertiliser occasionally.	Shorten long vines.	Only scissor pruning.	Pellucid zygaenid, tea tortrix.	