



Welcome to the April newsletter (although pretty late!)

Well we are having lots of rain again, and this can pose a few problems. Its ok whilst we are having nice warm/hot weather, but wet and cool can cause problems such as root rot, and severely effect trees such as black pines.

One way of avoiding this is to put something under one end of the pot so as it drains out only one of the holes. This happens as the water is forced to run to that end of the pot, and will drain much more freely.

This applies mostly to figs and pines. More of this in the newsletter

DIATOMITE

We have recently been experimenting with a product called 'diatomite'.

As you may know, black pines and figs don't like to be wet all the time, but they do love their water.

Herein lies the problem, how do you keep something wet but dry!

Enter diatomite. Diatomite has the capacity to hold water, whilst allowing good drainage. The water (along with nutrients) are released when needed. So this allows for lots of water but not being super wet. We have tried to keep figs and pines dry, knowing they hate wet feet, but this has been detrimental to the tree as they love their water.

This organic, natural product contains the fossilised skeletons of trillions of microscopic, single cell aquatic plants of fresh water origin. This lightweight, porous, non-toxic, non-hazardous mineral is a cost effective, highly efficient, horticultural growth promoting media.

- # It does not swell, expand or contract
- # Highly absorbent, reducing the need for watering
- # Slow releases water and nutrients to plant roots through capillary action
- # Enhances lateral movement of water and nutrient throughout the media.

Hope this didn't bore you but I consider this vital information.

We will be selling this product at the nursery.

FERTILISING

Don't forget to keep up the fertilizing at the moment. Even though the trees may seem to have stopped growing, they are still hard at work storing all their nutrients for spring. If you fail to keep this up at the moment, you will pay the price at spring time with less than efficient growth, and dieback of much of the small branchlets that take so long to develop. Remember that growth must come from somewhere, and that somewhere is nutrients stored in the trunk and large roots. This is especially important if you are trying to increase branch ramification on

CLEANING CONIFERS

As your conifers begin to slow down in growth, you will notice that as the weather cools that you will get "die back" inside your tree. The reason for this is that sun is no longer penetrating this area so the tree stops producing new growth underneath. This leads to lots of small brown needles which if allowed to stay, will produce the ideal living place for lots of bugs (if it already hasn't.) Much of insect infestation can be avoided by keeping your trees well groomed and clean.

The best way to remove these old needles is to use something like a chopstick to loosen all the old matter. After you have done this is then worth going over the tree and shortening all the smaller branchlets that have grown over 25mm in height above the branch. By doing this you will allow light to penetrate inside the tree which is imperative for health, good growth, and short compact ramification. This is how these lovely compact clouds are developed.



Opening hours Monday to Saturday 9.00 – 4.00

238 Currumbin Creek Road
 Currumbin Queensland
 4223
 Phone 0755939916
 Email chris@reddragonbonsai.com
 Web www.reddragonbonsai.com

RED DRAGON BONSAI



This is a juniper we did last year. Below is the tree with a seasons growth on it. You can see how creating the 'skeleton' of the tree is vital to the later shape of the tree.

Time spent on the shaping of the tree in the early days will pay dividends in the long run. This is especially true of deciduous trees.

Winter will always find you out when all you have is branches.

Impatience is the biggest enemy of bonsai, because we live in a world of 'now'. Be patient, and reap the rewards!

This tree has been sold now and is on its way to Tully in north Queensland!

NEW STOCK.

We have had some great new stock come in recently.

Recent arrivals are:

Black pines (which are becoming scarce as rocking horse poo!)

Sao-to-me' azaleas, these are miniatures and awesome for small bonsai.

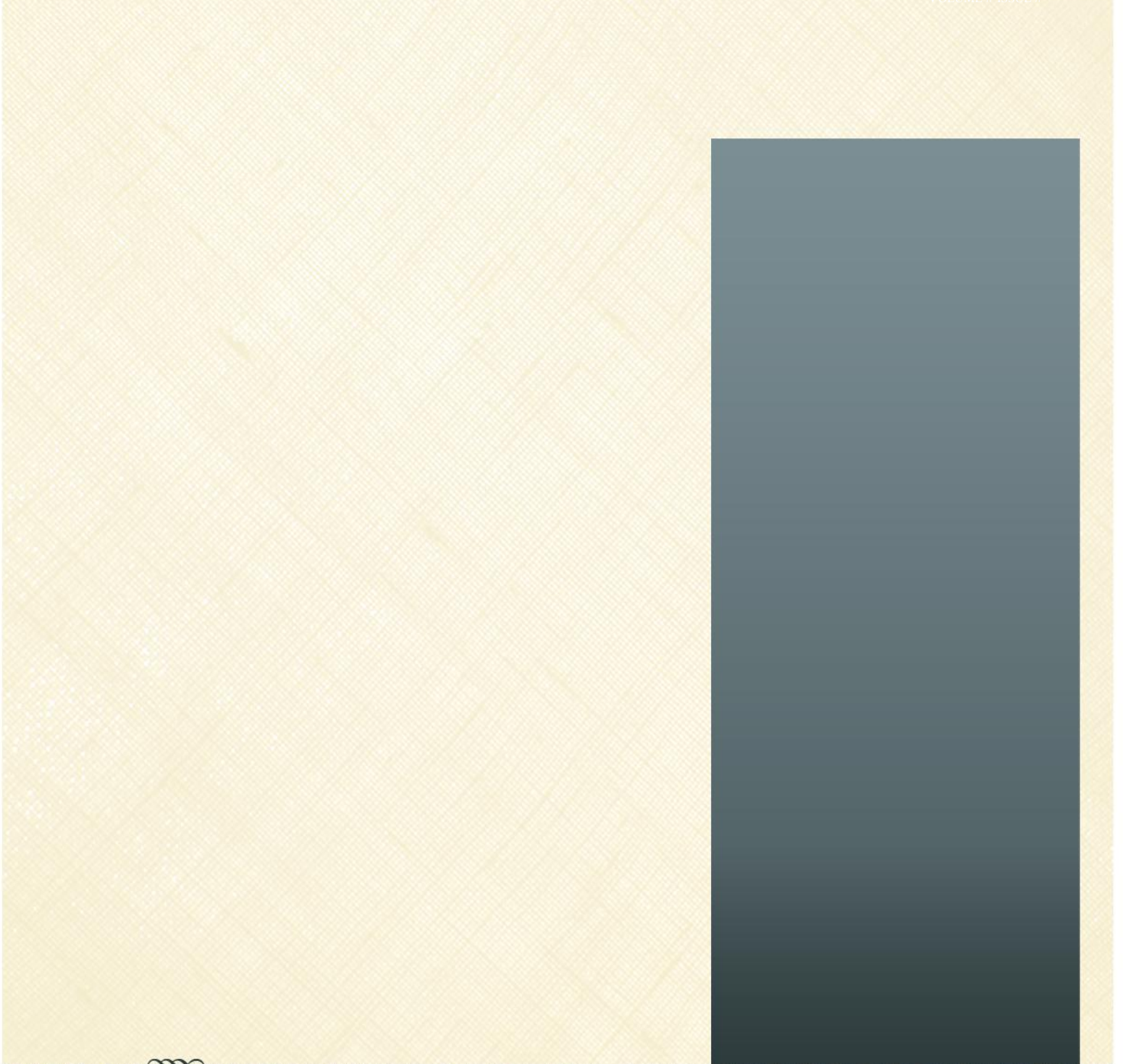
Staked junipers, which we cant keep up with!

Cotoneaster (pronounced cotone-e-aster, just so you don't feel like a goose when you ask for them!)

These have a really pretty little white and yellow flower, which tiurn into a red berrie. These stay on most of the year.



Sao-to-me on the left and cotoneaster on the right



0000