

RED DRAGON BONSAI NEWS

JUNE 2011

Welcome to the newsletter, sorry late again. We are in the process of repotting the whole pre-bonsai side of the nursery, lots and lots of repotting. Although the weather has been very cold in the mornings, the days have been as good as it gets! I have noticed a Chinese elm already sprouting new buds, trees are a better guide to the season than the calendar. I am sure we still have some cold weather ahead so don't go repotting (bonsai) just yet. Repotting is ok at any time of the year if you are potting up (larger container), and not root pruning.

Watering.

I know I speak on watering frequently but it is a vital area to healthy growth.

I think more people lose trees through overwatering than underwatering.

As the days and nights become cooler, your trees will need less water because of 2 reasons:

1. Because the temperatures are lower, there is less transpiration in progress (Water leaving the plant through the leaves) and
2. Less to no root growth, which are the conduits for moisture.

If we are to ignore these factors, your trees will become constantly wet, and therefore be exposed to root rot etc. Remember trees in pots are different to those growing in the ground. Trees in the ground have areas of excess water run-off, and are therefore not so much under threat. In a pot the water can only drain through the drain holes, thereby creating more moisture than would be in the ground. Conversely, in summer, your tree is reliant on the moisture in the pot to be sustained.

Allow your tree to nearly dry out before rewatering. In winter it is having its well-earned rest!

BONSAI SAYING

The object is not to make the tree look like a bonsai, but to make the bonsai look like a tree.

- John Naka

LIQUID POTASH.

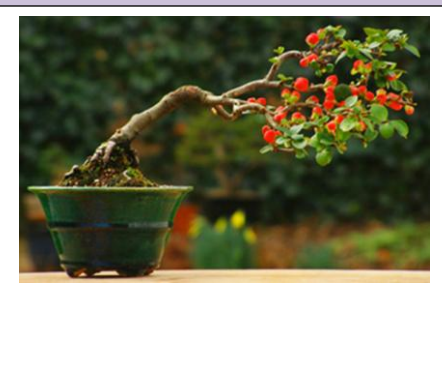
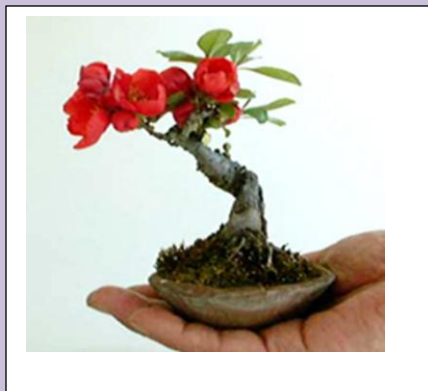
Now is a great time to be using 'liquid potash' (from bunnings) to water all your flowering trees with. This will encourage great flower bud development in time for spring.

Use this every 2 weeks until the buds are just about to open. If continued you will just produce too much leaf growth.

Usually this is started in March and continued through to the buds just about opening.

Now is also a good time to pick trees with the flowers already out rather than buying them in leaf and not knowing.

We have some very pretty chamomiles (flowering quince, yes they get quinces on them!) and they are just flowering. There is pink, orange, white and salmon. These look great done in a more artistic style and with the use of funky pots are a real standout!



Now don't these look awesome!! Try and break away now and then from the traditional informal upright style and begin to bring out the artist in you.

I think this type of tree rivals any traditional bonsai style. The upside is that they don't take that long to grow.



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 NEWS

VOLUME # ISSUE #

WINTER.

Now is a good time to clean out all the areas where your Bonsai are displayed. You will have a lot less to do, so now is a good time for some tidying up.

Reconsider where you have your trees, have they been getting enough light, are they in an awkward position, are they displayed to their best advantage?

Maybe now is the time to build or extend your racks, design bit of a Japanese garden around them, and create a bit of "ambience"

Another thing that you can do in winter is take advantage of the sparseness of growth on your deciduous trees, and reshape and rewire them. Because most of the leaves will have fallen by now, you have a much clearer view of the tree. You may even see a new shape from branches that have been growing disguised behind the foliage.

This is also a great time for rewiring, not as many leaves to get in the way! Always make sure your trees are on the dry side before wiring. If they have just been watered, they are more likely to be brittle and snap easily. This may sound strange, but picture a stick of celery, when is it easier to snap, when it is full of moisture, or a week old? Don't learn the hard way!

It is also a good time to cut back you elms. When I say cut back, I mean cut back. Be ruthless! (I obviously don't mean to cut of branches, but be quite severe on all your branchlets. Elms respond well to heavy pruning this time of the year. You will be rewarded with abundant new growth in spring. This will lead to greater branch ramification, which can be a winter highlight on elms.

In the 2 pictures below you can see how hard I have cut back this big maple (left) You will never get good ramification if you don't do this. In the picture on the right you can see the incredible ramification on this corky bark elm. This has already been cut back!



WINTER (cont.)

Another thing that you can do in winter is take advantage of the sparseness of growth on your deciduous trees, and reshape and rewire them. Because most of the leaves will have fallen by now, you have a much clearer view of the tree. You may even see a new shape from branches that have been growing disguised behind the foliage.

This is also a great time for rewiring, not as many leaves to get in the way! Always make sure your trees are on the dry side before wiring.

If they have just been watered, they are more likely to be brittle and snap easily. This may sound strange, but picture a stick of celery, when is it easier to snap, when it is full of moisture, or a week old? Don't learn the hard way!



You can see the extensive wiring on this elm, it is so much easier to do this in winter. A tree may look good in spring/summer, with a full covering of foliage, but come winter and you will be found out with branches going in every direction. This is the lazy way to do it. Take your time and develop the tree, you will be more than rewarded!

This is doing bonsai, not just maintaining a tree

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