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Bonsai Tree - Ficus Glomerata Variegata Information

By Suhendra

Hello Bonsai devotees, my name is Suhendra. I want to share my knowledge about Ficus

Glomerata Variegata (Loa Varigata in Indonesian Language). I bought the bonsai in northern Bandung in 2004. I drove my own car accompanied by employees. When arrived, I see numerous small and raw bonsai. Some were good, but some were only raw bonsai. Then the owner invited us to see his farm, which had raw bonsai planted in soil and polybags. Some of them were planted from seeds, graftings, and natures.

In his farm I saw a Kaliandar Variegata whose flowers were red, like timber tree flowers and I wanted to buy it. Unfortunately, the owner didn't sell because he said it will die if dug in dry season. I was quite confused, since the tree was 2 meter height and had so many saplings. Why didn't he separate them and planted in pots or polybags to be sold. I think the tree was good, because it had yellow striped leaves that very contrast plus red flowers. I thought it will attract so many people to buy.

When we were talking, he mentioned about Ficus Glomerata Variegata whose fertile was not good. I was interested to know more because I was interested in collecting rare plants especially that could be created as bonsai. When I saw the plant, it was only planted in polybag using unhulled paddy (paddy plants /rice that are hulled and then separated from the stalks) as media. It was put in the middle of higher trees, so there was possibility watering process could not be completed. Sunshine was also not than one hour, and there were so many branches were not cut in the lower position that made the variegata lost. I think that were the factors.

After I bought and took it home, I did the repotting: 1 part soil + 2 part fertilizer + 1 part Malang sand (any sand taken from volcanoes). Before the substances mixed in pot, the bottom should be covered by filter to shut the hole. On the filter put rough sand (2–3 mm), then softer sand (1 mm), and goat manure (mixed with unhulled paddy) with comparison 1:1. Cut all the branches, leaves including the green and variegata from the stalk. After that, pull the tree from its polybag, clean the soil, and cut and the oversized roots. Finally, put the tree in the pot, do watering, and keep in shaded place. Put in a place with 2 hour morning sunshine when the tree grows new buds. After having many variegata leaves, full dry in the sun. When the tree grow green leaves, cut immediately.

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The result after 6 months, the tree became so fertile and good. So I started to shape it with Slanting Style. After 2 years with good nursery, it became 80% qualified bonsai. I kept doing the intensive care for the purpose of joining National Bonsai Competition.

One day there was a bonsai lover outside Bandung city came to my place to see bonsai. When he saw the Ficus Glomerata Variegata, he was so impressed and eager to buy it. I understood his feeling, because I had ever the same experiences when I wanted to buy good and rare bonsai tree. After he did some very good offer, I sold the tree. Why? Because I had the saplings from prior graftings, so I still could have the same trees. I felt happy because there was a person who appreciated my work from the same hobby.

And that's the whole story and experience about how to do repotting and plant bonsai with the substances made especially for the Ficus Glomerata Variegata. I hope my information could give positive input for you, the world bonsai devotees. Thank you.

Suhendra is the owner of Bonsai Star Gallery (

<http://www.bonsaistar.com>

) and former chief of

Bandung–Indonesia Bonsai Society (2003–2004). In his site you will get information on bonsai Tree, bonsai plant, bonsai for sale and everything about bonsai.

All About The Art Of Bonsai Trees

By Gabriel Adams

Bonsai trees make up an art form that has been around for hundreds of years. The idea is to take what would normally be a very large tree and stunt its growth so that it stays small. Most people will keep their trees just a few inches tall. There are many things that are needed to work with bonsai plants. Here are some of the things your tree will need:

1. Constant pruning. A bonsai tree will require more pruning and care than your average plant. You will even need to prune the roots to help keep the trees growth stunted.
2. Water. Every plant needs water and a bonsai tree is no exception. With a bonsai however you must take even greater care to over water because of how the tree is designed.
3. Sunlight. Another need of all plants is sunlight. Another thing to consider is the temperature to keep the plant at. Every plant has a certain temperature that it will grow and thrive best in and you should consider looking up what it is for your bonsai tree.
4. Fertilizer. Remember to always choose the best fertilizer for your plant. Also, don't overdue it with

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how much you use. These plants are more delicate than your average house or garden plant.

One of the most important things to consider when getting a bonsai tree is time. You are going to spend a good bit of time pruning and taking care of your tree if you want to keep it looking healthy. While this is a calming hobby for a lot of people the average person just wouldn't want to deal with it. Make sure you are prepared to spend time working on your tree.

Also, make sure you do a lot of research on the best type of tree for your area. Some trees do better in certain climates than others and this should be taken into consideration when buying or planting a tree.

Lastly, check out the following books for some help regarding your new hobby:

Bonsai – pocket encyclopedia 101 Essential Tips: Bonsai
Bonsai Basics : A Step–By–Step Guide to Growing, Training & General Care
Simon and Schuster's Guide to Bonsai

Reading up on bonsai trees using those books plus the information posted here and on the web should allow you to successfully start your own bonsai tree. Good luck and happy planting!

Visit our website for bonsai seeds:

<http://www.mishobonsai.com/>



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