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## The History Of The Bonsai Tree

By Matt Shupe

Everybody has heard of the Bonsai tree but very few people know anything about the history of the miniature shrub or where the tradition came from.

Bonsai is a Japanese term which, in its native language, translates to mean "tray gardening". This term describes exactly what bonsai is as it is a tree which is grown in a small pot or tub enabling it to be kept indoors. These trees are not always genetically predisposed to be small and so they are kept this way through careful pruning. The ability to care for a bonsai tree, keeping it small and healthy, is an art form in itself. The trees are commonly pruned in to an aesthetically pleasing shape, another reason why they are seen as works of art and not just as plants.

The term bonsai is widely known and understood and yet the art was originally found in China, by the name of penjing. The Japanese art of bonsai stemmed from this and so is actually more modern than the Chinese. However, the Japanese version is the one which is more widely known.

Discoveries have been made in Egyptian tombs of sketches showing miniature trees in pots. These are thought to have been kept for decorative purposes and the pictures date back to 4000 years ago! After this time there is evidence to suggest that trees were transported in the caravans of Asia as they travelled around as they were used for their medicinal properties should someone have fallen ill.

The art of bonsai as we know it stems from the Chinese art of penjing, which is a 2000 year old tradition. It was brought to Japan somewhere between the 7th - 9th centuries by the Imperial Embassies to Tang China. Initially it was enjoyed only by the nobility and was not a hobby which was enjoyed by the masses. However, over time it began to filter down through the social hierarchy and became something which much of the population enjoyed.

The practise of pruning and shaping miniature trees is still in place in both China and Japan. However, the Chinese tend to keep them for outdoor displays and so, although still smaller than normal trees, they are somewhat larger than the Japanese versions, who create the pieces of art to be displayed primarily in the home.

## The History Of The Bonsai Tree

For anyone considering turning their hand to this hobby, it is well worth reading up on the subject beforehand as the trees require careful nurturing. It is not just the leaves which require trimming, the roots need to be tended to also and the amount of water they require is practically an art form in itself. Information on this is widely available on the Internet, meaning that anyone serious about trying this should be able to do so successfully.

The author is a regular contributor to Best Bonsai Supply

<http://www.bestbonsaisupply.com>

where

more information about bonsai trees, plants, pots and other bonsai supplies is freely available.

### **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 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:

## The History Of The Bonsai Tree

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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