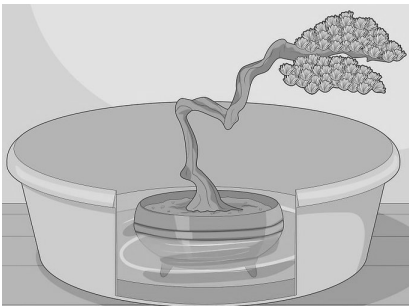


## INDOOR BONSAI TREE CARE SHEET

**These General instructions cover most Indoor Bonsai - we have highlighted any specific requirements by Species at the bottom - If you require any more information please email us at [seikatsubonsaischool@gmail.com](mailto:seikatsubonsaischool@gmail.com)**

**LOCATION:** All indoor Bonsai require good light but protect from direct sun as this can scorch the leaves and dry out the soil. Be wary of placing the tree on a windowsill as in the winter a radiator under a windowsill can dry out the tree in no time. As constant a temperature as possible is ideal and not below 5 degrees Celsius at any time.

**WATERING:** required most days during the summer and soak fully when you water . Don't let the tree fully dry out but leave a couple of days between watering or until the soil start to feel dry under the surface.



The soak watering method is the way we recommend for all Bonsai - Place the tree in a bowl of water (see illustration) the water should be up to the depth of the pot ideally but anything over half the depth will work - Leave the tree in the water for 5 minutes and then remove from the water and allow to drain.

Repeat this process every 2-3 days or if the soil appears dry (some varieties have slightly different requirements and they will be covered in the species guide below

We have posted a video on youtube entitled Chinese elm bonsai disaster recovery [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eazb7DyF\\_8g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eazb7DyF_8g), although this is a specific variety video the tips on watering using the soaking method are recommended for most Bonsai.

**MISTING:** Contrary to a lot of information on the internet I do not recommend misting of soft leaved Bonsai - in my experience this leads to yellowing and leaf rot and really has no benefit to the tree.

**REPOTTING:** Younger trees should be repotted every two years in early spring. Flowering trees should be repotted either in spring or after flowering. Mature bonsai should be repotted less frequently, when necessary. When pruning the roots take great care, they are very thin and matted and can easily be torn when you try to disentangle them. Pre mixed Bonsai Soil is ideal (available on our website [www.seikatsubonsaischool.co.uk](http://www.seikatsubonsaischool.co.uk)). If it is your first time repotting and you are not confident then we offer online lessons over Skype, Zoom or FaceTime and we can step you through the process (a 15 minute lesson is sufficient for a small bonsai ) book online at <https://www.seikatsubonsaischool.co.uk/book-online>

**FEEDING:** Feeding is generally from March through to October. We recommend either Naruko slow release fertiliser or Chrysal liquid feed (both available on our website [www.seikatsubonsaischool.co.uk](http://www.seikatsubonsaischool.co.uk)).

With Chrysal liquid feed you should feed using the dilution instructions (a capful of feed in a litre of water).

In spring and summer feed once every 2 weeks, pour the diluted feed onto the soil (over a sink or bowl), ideally the day after watering , half a litre should be easily sufficient for most small Bonsai. In Autumn and winter feed every 4-6 weeks using the same method. Naruko feed should be sprinkled on the soil surface , as a guide a teaspoon is enough for a 15cm pot - re-apply every 4 weeks in spring and summer or 8 weeks in Autumn/Winter. Naruko is an organic product so mould can form on it as it breaks down, this is not harmful but can be unsightly, pushing the pellets into the soil will alleviate this issue.

Trees that produce flowers should not be fed during flowering or use only half the normal dosage.

**PESTS & DISEASES:** Bonsai are susceptible to the same pests and diseases as common house plants. The best defence is to keep your tree clean and healthy. Keeping the leaves free from dust will allow proper circulation in your tree. If you notice any abnormal leaf drop, stickiness to the foliage, or visible insects, you need to treat the problem promptly. Rose clear seems to work well for most insect issues on indoor Bonsai without damaging the tree.

**PRUNING** - Generally speaking pruning can be done at any time as required but different species have slightly different methods of pruning. A video on pruning Chinese Elm is available on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILIEROsTEOc&t=39s> . If it is your first time pruning and you are not confident then we offer online lessons over Skype, Zoom or FaceTime and we can step you through the process (a 15 minute lesson is sufficient for a small bonsai ) book online at <https://www.seikatsubonsaischool.co.uk/book-online>