



Eerste uitgawe  
2021

# Koeda

## Pretoria Bonsai Kai

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### In hierdie uitgawe

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The word Koeda is Japanese and means: 'Graceful branch'. It is pronounced Ko-eda.

## From the editor

### Bonsai friends

I hear kids tell each other not to 'jinx' something. Apparently it means if you mention that something (normally bad) can happen, it normally will. Well, it seems that I 'jinxed' our meetings by saying in the December Koeda edition that I trusted we could return to normal in 2021, and have our meetings again.....sorry. We had to miss the January and February meetings due to lock down.

The presentations that would have been used during the meetings were supplied by Morgan and Erika and placed on our web-site. I have decided to publish them in the Koeda as well, as not everybody visits our web site and some people print hard copies of the Koeda to file.

We were fortunate to have our March meeting which I report on in this Koeda. Attendance were, as expected, much lower than normal, but hopefully we will slowly return to the attendance we were used to.

I do not include the normal articles, like feedback on demonstration trees, snippets etc in this ad-

dition. The next addition will hopefully return to normal.

We have not heard of any Kai members who became seriously ill with covid-19 and are very thankful for that.

Please keep yourselves safe and spare your thoughts and prayers for the sick and lonely who did get affected.

Jaco



**“A little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing.”** - English proverb

## Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

Daar was agv die corona-19 inperking nie 'n vergadering gehou nie. Morgan het egter vir ons sy praatjie verskaf wat hy by die vergadering sou gee. Dankie Morgan!

# Broom Form (Hokidachi )



## PRETORIA BONSAI KAI

### Form vs Style

- Terms used interchangeably, but there is a difference
  - Style – distinctive, geographic, artistic,
  - Japanese – Formal, structured
  - Chinese – Penjing, Clip and grow, Literati
  - Naturalistic – Making your bonsai look like a tree, informal
  - African – Flat top, Pierneef, Baobab - Forms
  - Form – Shape, pattern
  - Formal Upright
  - Informal Upright
  - Cascade
  - Broom
-

## Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

### Characteristics

- Looks like a upside down straw / grass broom
  - Developed for the winter silhouette and to be shown without leaves
  - **Formal**
    - Characteristics
      - Straight trunk. ~3 times trunk width
      - Radial Nebari
      - Multiple branches radiating out from the trunk
      - Rounded canopy
      - Trunk can extend to apex
      - Fine ramification
      - Does not have Jin, Shari, Uro (hollow trunk)
  - **Informal**
    - Naturalistic style
    - Can include Jin, Shari, Uro
    - Short trunk
    - Multiple trunks
    - Can be styled as a 360° tree. No single front required
  - **Flame**
    - Looks like an candle
  - **Differs from a informal upright**
    - No left, right, back branch placement
    - Branches at acute angle to trunk and reach to the sky – not horizontal
-

## Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

### Suitable Tree Species

- Predominantly Deciduous and Broadleaf species
- Zelkova Settata (Japanese Elm, Grey barl elm)
- Acer
  - Trident (Chinese) maples
  - Japanese Palmatum
- Celtis (Wit stinkhout)
- Elm
- Olea (Olive)
- Acer
- Senegalia and Vachellia
- Liquiamber
- Trees with fine ramification growth habit

### • Not suitable

- Pines
- Juniper

### • How do you start?

- It starts with a trunk chop—take off the kid gloves and pull out the saw!!
  - How high for the chop?
  - Depends on your design.
  - Short vs long vs multi trunk



New buds ± 6 weeks after trunk chop

## Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

- **How do you start?** (continue)
- What type of trunk chop
  - Flat? - smallest exposed area
  - Diagonal? - introduce taper
  - “V” notch? John Naka
  - What about die back? Diagonal and “V” notch more prone to die back
  - TIP—Seal the cut to reduce die back
- I prefer a flat chop
  - Had some die back issues on some Celtis that I chopped
  - Could be because I forgot to seal them? Oops....paid some school fees.
- Multiple shoots can develop from the same node. Select only one shoot per node as soon as possible. Prevents abnormal thickening at the node and a better transition from the trunk
- Wire the shoots once they have hardened
- “Let the branches thicken to the size you want and then cut back hard
- Carve the transition between the trunk and branches—if necessary
- Continue cutting back to develop ramification. Preferably in winter / early spring when you can see the branch structure
- Cut back for shape in summer for multi flush plants for quicker ramification



Tree neglected after trunk chop

Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

### Progression—eight weeks after trunk chop



New buds ±8 weeks after trunk chop  
too many branches



Select the main branches you wish to use  
branches too fragile to wire

### Broom Progression



1) Trunk chop



2) New growth on old wood



3) New growth elongates

Continue on next page

Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

**Broom Progression** (continue)



4) Branch selection



5) Wire branch and thickening



6) Trick—Bind the trunk to prevent abnormal growth

**Michael Hagedorn—Zelkova demo**



Before



During



After

## Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

**Walter Pall—Hedge Pruning Method**

- Used for developing fine ramification

## Basic Methodology

- Cut roughly for the general shape you want with a large pair of shears
  - Cut back some larger secondary and tertiary branches—optional
  - Let it grow
  - Repeat
- If your tree species have two flushes of growth then you can cut back in summer as well

**Walter Pall's infamous Japanese maple—with all its faults**

1994



2000



2005



2011



2013



Scale



## Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

### Flame form—Broom variation

- As the name indicates, it looks like a candle flame
- Trunk line extends to the apex



Liquidambar naturally grows in a flame



Ginkgo Biloba growth pattern lends it to the flame

### Formal Japanese Typical Discontinued trunk



### Formal Japanese Continued trunk



Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

**Hollow Trunk**



**Formal Japanese**



**Developed for the Winter  
Silhouette**



**Japanese Zelkovas**



120cm  
tall



50cm tall

Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

**More eye candy**



**Local Inspiration  
Hannes Fritz—Hollow  
Trunk Celtis**

**Local Inspiration  
Hannes Fritz—Celtis**



Vergadering van 9 Januarie 2021

**Inspiration from nature**



**Olive naturally grows in a broom style**



**Vachellia ? In a broom style**

**Senegalia galpinii**



**These trees do not fit the formal Japanese style but would fit perfectly as an informal broom**



## Vergadering van 6 Februarie 2021

Daar was agv die corona-19 inperking nie 'n vergadering gehou nie. Erika het egter vir ons haar praatjie verskaf wat sy by die vergadering sou gee. Dankie Erika!

# Flowering and fruiting trees suitable for bonsai

Here is a list of trees I've put together from various sources.

Surprisingly there is very few discussed in bonsai books.

I am talking about apples (except crab-apples), pears, peaches, apricots, (flowering apricots) prunes citrus fruit ect. .

Basic bonsai principals are used on all of them.

Here follows a discussion on a few of them.

### APPLES:

Apples are one of the most popular fruit bearing bonsai and has very few problems.

How to get flower buds.

As with all fruit bearing trees it is important to make sure flower buds form.

Flower buds are located at the tips of the short branches of the previous years growth.

Flower buds are formed in summer.

So if you want flowers do not prune the short shoots.!

Otherwise you may prune your bonsai in the style you prefer.

Do not let it become too dense.

Fruiting trees needs sunshine in the middle too.

Always prune very short branches that has very long internodes.

Thin branches must be pruned in spring.

Thick branches better be pruned in autumn.

If you prune without paying any attention to the season in which it is done, you will probably not have flowers in the next year.

### WIRING:

May to June, leave on +- 2 months.

### LOCATION:

Lots of sun.

Remember need cold winters.

### WATER:

Lots of water.

### FERTILISING:

Give the main macro elements, but only a small amount of nitrogen.

Do not fertilize after flowers appear until fruit has set.

### TRANSPLANT:

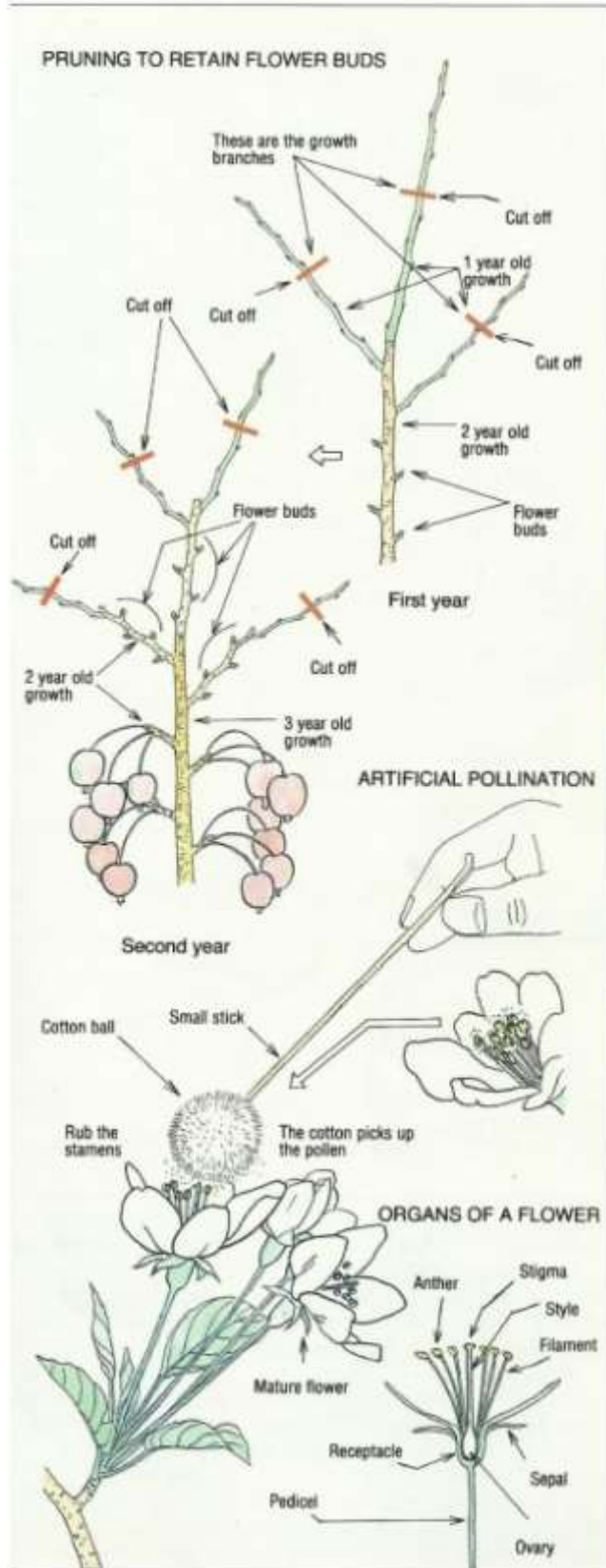
Young trees every year. Established trees every 2nd year. And older trees every three years.

Transplant in autumn after leaves have dropped.

Spring transplanting will result in no fruit that year.

Always prune that the last bud points downwards.

Vergadering van 6 Februarie 2021



## Vergadering van 6 Februarie 2021

### QUINCE:

Easily available at most nurseries.

You must have a couple of trees to be successful to avoid fruit drop.

This is due to not enough water and to much fertilizer just before flowering.

It should be fertilized very lightly from the beginning of spring, until the fruits have set, then fertilize with phosphorus and potassium.

### PRUNING:

Prune back leaving 4-5 nodes on short branches (same as apple).

### TRANSPLANTING:

Every two years. When tree is young. Every three years on older trees.

Transplant in Autumn.

Ordinary quince does not get many diseases.

Look out for aphids in spring. Make sure the tree has ample air circulation and sunlight.

Quinces are also susceptible to fungus attacks.



From BONSAI TODAY #35



From BONSAI TODAY #54 front cover

### POMEGRANATE:

The pomegranate start to flower early in spring.

The first flower rarely sets fruit.

After the first flowering new growth is produced since the pomegranate flower at the tip of the branches the problem is keeping the branches short.

Prune back after the first flowering.

The new shoots will form flower buds but will be shorter.

The branches that set fruit usually remain very weak during the following year.

So do not let any branch bear fruit two years in a row.

Do not let more than one pomegranate hang from a single branch.

### TRANSPLANTING:

Transplant in autumn.

Pomegranates like hot weather.

Protect from extreme cold in winter.

Water moderately.

Photos of Pomegranate on next page:

## Vergadering van 6 Februarie 2021



From BONSAI TODAY #78

From BONSAI TODAY #78



From BONSAI TODAY #77

From BONSAI TODAY #77

## REKLAME



### ROBINSON & KRUGER

— PROKUREURS / ATTORNEYS —

SINCE 1995

BOEDELBEREDDERAARS / ADMINISTRATORS OF ESTATES  
TRANSPORTBESORGENS / CONVEYANCERS / NOTARISSE / NOTARIES

- IS JY IN DIE PROSES OM 'N HUIS TE KOOP OF TE VERKOOP?
- TROU JY OF WEET JY VAN IEMAND WAT GAAN TROU EN 'N HUWELIKSKONTRAK BENODIG?
- IS IEMAND NABY JOU OORLEDE?

INDIEN JY "JA" ANTWOORD OP ENIGE VAN DIE BOGENOEMDE, KONTAK ONS VIR PERSOONLIKE BYSTAND.

- ONS DOEN OOK BOEDELBEPLANNING, EGSKEIDINGS, DERDE PARTY EISE (RAF EISE) EN PERSOONLIKE BESERING EISE

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# Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021



## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021 - mini uitstalling



Gerhard vertel dat hy 'n slag vuur maak om vleis te braai en toe die dooie stuk stomp sien en daar besluit om 'n 'tanuki' te maak. Die boom wat hy gebruik het is 'n Natal vy (*Ficus natalensis*). Die boom is nou so 10 jaar oud.



Bo: Koos het hierdie plant, heel moontlik 'n Natal vy (*Ficus natalensis*), in 2002 by Woolworths gekoop as 'n potplant.

Regs: Vorster het die eerste keer in 2019 aan hierdie Spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*) begin werk.



## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021 - mini uitstalling



Bo: Gerhard het hierdie Natal vy, *Ficus natalensis*, in 1995 in Heidelberg by iemand gekry. Die boom was ongestyleer.

Regs: Marie het hierdie Spekboom, *Portulacaria afra*, al sowat 10 jaar.



Links: Jaco het hierdie *Ficus burtt-davyi* in 2008 as 'n steggie op die rots geplant.

Onder: Gerhard se Spekboom, *Portulacaria afra*, het hy van 'n baie klein steggie begin.



## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021 - mini uitstalling



Bo: Vorster het hierdie 'langblaar' Ficus burt-davyi in 2011 begin. Die boom het in sy bak op die grond gestaan en omdat die wortels deur die bak tot in die grond gegroei het het sy stam vining verdik.

Onder: Francois het vyf Witstinkhout boompies as 'n groepie in 2019 op die rots geplant. Francois sê dat twee van die boompies gevrek het omdat die klip te warm geword het in die son. Hou maar so klip in half skadu!



Bo: Hierdie Spekboom van Marie het sy sowat 4 jaar.



Links: Gerhard werk sowat 12 tot 15 jaar aan hierdie Natal vy, Ficus natalensis.

## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021 - mini uitstalling



Bo: Hierdie is 'n Transvaalliguster, *Galpinia transvaalica*, van Marie. Dit was haar eerste boom wat sy as bonsai begin het en is nou 12 jaar oud.



Links: Hierdie Kan-niedood, *Commiphora neglecta*, was die wortelbasis van 'n ander boom wat Jaco bo af-gesny het. Die oorspronklike boom is sowat 23 jaar oud.

Onder: Hierdie Laventelboom, *Heteropyxis natalensis*, het Francois by 'n vriend gekry. Hy weet nie hoe oud die boom is nie.



## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

### 'Tip of the month' - Deur Jaco Kriek

Jaco het vertel dat ons Spekhome nie so baie gebruik word in ons eie land as bonsai nie. Daar is egter baie mooi voorbeelde van mense wat oorsee ons Spekboom gebruik. Jaco het langs die pad waar hulle met hulle honde stap 'n Spekboom gekry met kleiner blare as die gewone. Hy het steggies gegroei en dit blyk dat die boompies wat hy groei steeds kleiner blaartjies het. Jaco het 'n paar voorbeelde gewys. **Tip:** Kyk uit vir bome met anderste blare of kleiner blare of vorms as die gewone.

Jaco het ook gewys dat die potjies, sowel as die uitstal tafeltjies van 'paper crete' gemaak is. Hy meng helfte papier, wat hy fyn en sag gemaak het, met helfte sement (per volume) en voeg bietjie 'oxide' by om kleur te gee. Hy gebruik dan enige vorms wat bruikbaar is om die potjies en tafeltjies in te vorm. Speel bietjie rond, dit is baie bevredigend. Onthou net dat die potjies egter nie so lank hou soos kly potte nie.



The theme of the meeting was:

### Keeping your Bonsai tools Sharp

And was presented by Bruce Carter.

It was very informative and more information was shared than the presentation Bruce used and which is presented on the following pages.



Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

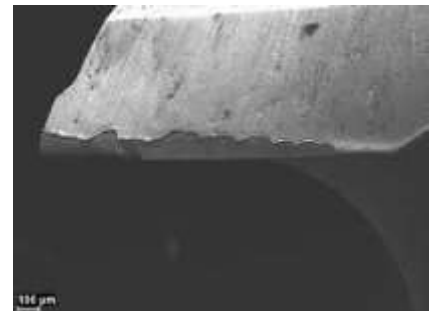
# Keeping Your Bonsai Tools Sharp

Pretoria Bonsai Kia: March 2021  
By Bruce Carter

## Introduction

### The basics of sharpening

- ◆ Different tools require a different cutting angle for their intended purpose. A razor is great for shaving but will not fell a tree.
- ◆ Sharpening involves keeping the cutting edge smooth ie no chips, dents or rough edges on the cutting edge



### Common angles used

- ◆ Razor blades  $-5^{\circ}$  to  $8^{\circ}$
- ◆ Scissor  $5^{\circ}$  to  $15^{\circ}$
- ◆ Filet knife  $17^{\circ}$  to  $19^{\circ}$
- ◆ Cleaver knife  $20^{\circ}$  to  $25^{\circ}$
- ◆ Branch cutter  $25^{\circ}$  to  $30^{\circ}$
- ◆ Axe / bolt cutter  $30^{\circ}$  to  $35^{\circ}$

### Sharpening Gauge



## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

### Rule 1:

**Never change the cutting angle that the manufacturer has selected**

**Changing the angle will weaken the ability of the cutting edge from performing the job it was intended to do**

### Heat in the making of cutting tools

- Steel is either soft and easy to work with, and will not hold a sharp edge, or it is hard and brittle, and will chip and snap
- In making cutting tools the manufacturer has to use heat to make the steel soft to work with, and then hard so that it can keep on cutting. This is a process of annealing and tempering.

### The first step in the process

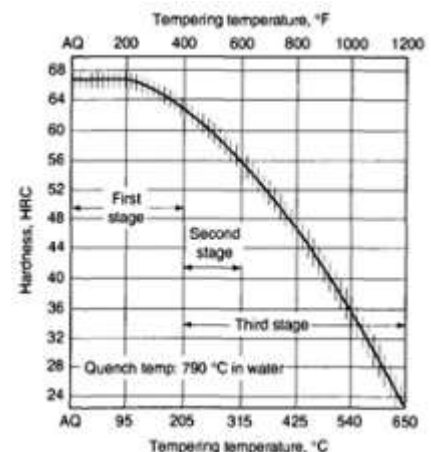
**Annealing: 760° C to 950° C**

- A complex process of preparing the steel for manufacture by using heat to relieve stresses in the steel and soften the steel so that it is workable
- This process is the beginning of a good cutting tool, and is costly, which is why quality tools are expensive

### The last step in the process

**Tempering: 176° C to 232° C**

- Once the cutting tool has been made, the edge has to be hardened again so that it will keep a good cutting ability, but not be brittle
- This involved controlled heating, holding at temperature and finally controlled cooling
- If not correctly carried out the cutting edge will either be:
  - ⇒ Too soft, and will not stay sharp for long
  - ⇒ Too brittle, and will chip or even snap
- NB: Sharpening the cutting tool on a high revolution grinder will overheat the cutting edge and ruin the temper





## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

**Rule 2:**

**Never sharpen your cutting tool on a high revolution grinder**

**This will overheat the cutting edge and ruin the temper**

**Sharpening with or against the edge?**

- The Internet and forums are loaded with comments supporting both methods. Both methods work— it is a matter of preference
- Most professional whetstone systems sharpen against the edge. This has advantages and disadvantages

**Sharpening terminology:**

- Grinding: Ground to produce cutting edge
  - ⇒ Dry grinding—fast work on a coarse stone. Generates lots of heat and sparks
  - ⇒ Wet grinding—Much slower but produces a superior edge with little heat
- Honing—getting a fine edge
- Stropping / Polishing—maintaining a very fine edge
- **Dry grinding** (bench grinder) removes a lot of metal fast, but produces a lot of heat (due to high wheel revolutions: 2800rpm) **Not suitable for sharpening as will affect the temper**



Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

# Effective sharpening / Honing

## Whetstone grinding

- The whetstone turns at slower revolutions (90 to 140rpm) and the stone is kept wet by a water trough



Against the edge



## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

### Small electric sharpeners

- The 'Work Sharp' comes in two sizes



### Hand sharpening

- Lansky system



## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

- Whetstones, ceramic stones and diamond stones



- Sand paper glued onto glass or marble



### Which sharpening equipment is the best?

- This will depend on individual preference and on your budget

### Consider the cost

- The Tormek is the very best that money can buy. The big T8 cost R14 000 and the smaller T4 cost R8 000
- The Ardendorff dual grinder, which has a dry and wet grinder, cost R2 600

## Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

### Consider the cost

- The Work Sharp, belt sharpener:
  - ⇒ Large—R4 500
  - ⇒ Small—R2 500
- Lansky: R1 500 (5 stone), R850 (3 Stone) or about R300 per individual stone
- Diamond stones: R1 200 to R2 500
- Ceramic stones: R850 to R1 500
- Whet stones: R350 to R900
- Sand paper: R15 per sheet



## Sharpening and Maintaining Bonsai Tools

### Sharpening Bonsai Tools

- Bonsai tools are made to a very high standard and seldom need sharpening
- Mr Kawasumi used his tools every day as a professional bonsai nurseryman and only sharpened them every three years
- As hobbyist we may never need to sharpen our tools, if we look after them

### Your bonsai tools need sharpening

- Because of the complexity of curves and precision involved in bonsai cutters, it is better not to take them to a general tool sharpener
- The best is to colour koki ink in the surface to be sharpened, and then use a lansky or hand stone to evenly rub the surface until the metal beneath can be seen

### Care for your tools

#### Clean tools after every use and lightly oil them

- Wash tools with water after use
  - For stubborn stains, clean with any volatile cleaning solution. Benzine is slightly oily and does not dry out the hands
  - Lightly oil: 3 in 1, Q20, WD40 etc
-

Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

## Effective Polishing / Stropping

### Bonsai tools do need to be stropped

- Stropping is achieved by running the blade over leather treated with polishing compound / paste



### Types of strops

- Barbers leather strop R1 500



Home made strops ± R90



Vergadering van 6 Maart 2021

## Effective Polishing / Stropping

The most effective polisher for bonsai tools



- R150 to R200

### References:

- ◇ Jansson, T., 1985, Whetstone grinding of edge tools, Tormek AB, Lindesberg, Sweden
- ◇ Kawasumi, M., 1971, Introductory Bonsai and the care and use of bonsai tools, Japan Publications, Tokyo, Japan



**“A sharp tongue is the only edge tool that grows keener with constant use - Washington Irving**

<b>Sorgskedule</b> Seisoen: Season:		Mid-somer Mid-summer	Laat somer Late summer	Vroeg herfs Early autumn	Mid-herfs Mid-autumn	Laat herfs Late autumn	
<b>Maand:</b> <b>Month:</b>		<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mrt</b> <b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>Mei</b> <b>May</b>	
<b>Die boom se jaarsiklus</b> <b>The tree's yearly cycle</b>		Kort dormante periode, konsolideer nuwe groei Short period of dormancy, consolidate new growth			Berey voor vir dormante periode Prepare for winter dormancy		
<b>Ak s i e / A c t i o n</b>	Bonsai van saad Bonsai from seed			Vir beste resultate gebruik vars saad For best results, use fresh seed			
	Bonsai van steggies Bonsai from cuttings						
	Verplant Potting						
	Herpot met wortelsnoei Repot with root pruning				Immergroen bome Evergreen trees		
	Vormsnoei Formative pruning						
	Knyp groeipunte Pinch growth points						
	Bemesting Fertilizer						
	Insekdoders Insecticide						
	Somerbeskerming Summer protection						

<b>Sorgskedule</b> Seisoen: Season:		Vroeg winter Early winter	Mid-winter	Laat winter Late winter	Vroeg lente Early spring	Mid-lente Mid-spring	Laat lente Late spring	Vroeg somer Early summer
<b>Maand:</b> <b>Month:</b>		<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Okt</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Des</b> <b>Dec</b>
<b>Die boom se jaarsiklus</b> <b>The tree's yearly cycle</b>		Dormant gedurende die winter Winter dormancy			Herontwaking, nuwe groei Reawakening, new growth			Nuwe groei New growth
<b>Ak s i e / A c t i o n</b>	Bonsai van steggies Bonsai from cuttings							
	Verplant Potting							
	Herpot met wortelsnoei Repot with root pruning				Immergroen en bladwisselende bome Evergreen and deciduous trees			
	Vormsnoei Formative pruning							
	Knyp groeipunte Pinch growth points							
	Bemesting Fertilizer							
	Insekdoders Insecticide							
	Somerbeskerming Summer protection							
	Winterbeskerming Winter protection							