



Vol. 10 No. 3 March 1980  
ISSN 0160-9521

# PBA NEWSLETTER

## TREE OF THE MONTH

### クロマツ Japanese Blackpine *Kuro MATSU*



Kuro-matsu translates as black pine, kuro black, matsu for tree of the people. Native to Japan, it grows to a height of 100 feet in the wild. Flowers open in early July, males red, turning to yellow, grouped in clusters, females purplish red, about 1/5 inch long. Needles are thick, pointed and slightly twisted. They are grouped in pairs.

The Japanese bonsaist holds kuro-matsu in high esteem as bonsai material. This is evident in that it is the lead article among those featuring conifers in the Japanese book from which the following translation was made. The book referred to is "Directions for the Preparation of Pines and Conifers Bonsai with Illustrated Explanatory Notes" by Rinboku Shunsoku and

published by Makoto No Bun Doo Hika Sha, Japan. A follow-on article will appear on handling collected kuro-matsu. The following article covers the propagation of kuro-matsu from seed. I bought a packet of Japanese black pine seeds last year. The seeds were planted in sand and kept moist in a refrigerator for 60 days at just below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The seeds sprouted as described in the following article. They were cut free of root in late June as described herein and sprouted back. Out of 95 seeds about 50 survived through the summer, almost all had germinated.

The glamorous appeal of kuro-matsu is primarily that many kuro-matsue are a part of the natural scene of Japan along the shoreline and around lakes and ponds. Kuro-matsu is robust and majestic in appearance,--it has the exalted style and meter of a poem.

#### CLASSIFICATION, GROWING AREA, AND DISTINCTIVE

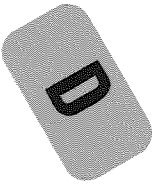
The classification of the kuro-matsu is on the basis of the texture of the trunk of the tree as related to the growing area.

PBA Newsletter: Published by the Potomac Bonsai Association, Inc. a non-profit organization, in the interest of its affiliate member clubs and societies.	
President: Mary Holmes (301)721-1309 Editor in Chief: Julius F. Koetsch (703)569-9378 Tree of the month Editor: Dave Dambowic (703)323-8749 Snips and Slips Editor: Mary Holmes Science Director: Ray Buck (301)345-4919 Advertising Director: Mary Fox (703)524-6636 Subscription and Circulation: Molley Hersh & Josephine Finneyfrock (301)589-3725 Send articles (in longhand) typewritten, in Japanese, or by voice over the phone, etc) to: J.F. Koetsch, 6709 Ct.	Calendar Editor: Jackie Dorsett (301)263-3995 Associate Editors: Ed Castillo & Warren Howard Layout Editor: Dave Morse Photography Director: Dave Morse (301)794-8127 Contributing Photographers: Arschel Morell & Howard Clark

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The popular texture of the trunk has the appearance of a tortoise shell with lengthwise gashes which effect is found with kuro-matsu grown in the sheltered areas of the northern slopes of mountains. Many kuro-matsu are found throughout the four main islands of Japan. The distinctive features of the kuro-matsu growing in the vicinity of ponds will have the bark ruined sooner or later by deer especially around lakes or ponds which attract the deer. The main intention is that a person capture in the bonsai the manly peculiarities of kuro-matsu. Big, thick needles are a defect of kuro-matsu (river black pine) raised along the seashore, at the base of mountains or in the rich hilly ground surrounding ponds.

#### PROPOGATION AND STYLES:

In replanting the seedlings after cutting off the initial roots (June-July timeframe), do not place them so that they will touch each other when they grow further in the next 3-4 months.

Kuro-matsu can be styled as follows; upright trunk, slanting trunk, root on rock, cascade, semi-cascade, group planting, root over rock, raft, and two-trunk.

#### SEEDS. GROWTH FIRST YEAR:

Starting Seed: Plant seeds in the first 10 days of April. Gather good seeds from mature trees with healthy leaves and store them. After the seeds have been sown, do not fertilize, water so that it drains from the bottom of the container and place the container where it is accessible to any wind that occurs (pines need air movement) and is a half a day in the shade (preferably afternoon). Water the top soil which has desiccated before placing it in the shade. Watch the sprout to see when it breaks through. In ten days the sprout should reach a recognizable length. Then place the container on top of a shelf in full sun and where winds can strike it.

Length of Sprout Starter: The lengths of the seedlings on the shelf, after the ten days in the middle of May through June, will reach the desired length. As shown in the sketches, cut-off the desired length of the sprout. Immediately put the container with the replanted sprouts in a breezy spot, provide half a day of shade, and water so as to not let the top soil dry out. 100% of the sprouts will survive. After ten days place the container on the shelf where it was previously located. A satisfactory watering schedule is twice a day. Do not fertilize during the first year. During the first ten days of December, put the sprouts in a greenhouse.

#### SECOND YEAR MANAGEMENT

Preparing Bowl: In first ten days of April prepare the pots for the saplings as described in the diagrams.

After planting the saplings in the pots, water them so that the water comes out of the bottoms of the pots and immediately put the pots outdoors on a shelf. Water twice daily.

Management: From mid-ten days of June until the end of October, lightly apply scrap oil (use vegetable oil) to the pots once per month.

In first ten days of December put the plants in a greenhouse during the passage of the winter.

#### THIRD YEAR EFFORT

Remove the plants from the greenhouse in the first ten days of April. Immediately place the plants outdoors on a shelf and inspect the plant after being in the greenhouse. Apply a small amount of crap oil once per month to the pots.

Plucking Needles: Between May and September, follow the instructions on the diagram using tweezers to remove the needles from the new sprouts leaving about 8 full-sized needles on the sprout. This will prevent the tree from growing aimlessly and develop thick, short growth.

#### FOURTH YEAR EFFORT:

The trees will gain height this year and grow about to four inches in length.

Place the trees on a shelf outdoors during the first ten days of April. This year fertilize the trees and provide sufficient water.

In order to prevent scragly growth, cut off the tops as shown in the accompanying diagram.

#### FIFTH YEAR . REPOT PLANT; PLUCK NEEDLES:

Repot Plant: During the last ten days of March transplant the trees from number 3 to number 5 pots. Use the same soil mix as used for planting the trees in the second year. Before repotting, remove 3 parts of the soil from the root ball. Thoroughly water the pots and immediately place them outdoors on a shelf. Thereafter complete the same work as outlined in the fourth year.

Pluck Top Needles: From September through November remove the needles from the sprouts plucking out with tweezers every other one. Leave about four or five needle pairs per sprout as shown in the diagram.

#### SIXTH YEAR. PRUNING FOR SHAPE:

This year the trees will have trunks of about 5/8 inch. During the first ten days of April put the plants on the shelf, and apply fertilizer.

Pruning: During the last ten days of May cut the new branches as shown in the diagram. Also remove the needles in the heart or core of everyone of the other branches.

Shaping: After September and up until February wiring can be done. Use 16 guage copper wire, anchor the wire to the trunk and then wire the branch. The lower branches should be twisted downward slightly, the mid-section branches should be horizontal and leave the upper branches unwired. In addition, give careful thought to the front branches and internal branching. Prune the branches so that from the front of the tree the shape is triangular.

SEVENTH YEAR AND AFTERWARDS:

After properly completing the sixth year of effort, the big, big objective is to shape the tree. Apply wire to the upper branches and bend them slightly upward. Apply wire to each of the small branches in order to form the triangular shape.

Now make a record of the trees shape and what the final, desired shape is to be.

The desired shape of straight trunk considered herein, has the wiring adjusted so that all the bundles of needles point upward, the upper branches are turned slightly above horizontal, the middle branches are horizontal, and the lower branches hang slightly below horizontal. The tree should be triangular in shape as shown in the accompanying sketch.

In time the upper section should be reduced to prevent a rotund appearing top. The spreading roots should be placed on the surface emanating in all directions.

The objective of shaping the tree as shown is to impart a feeling of durability.

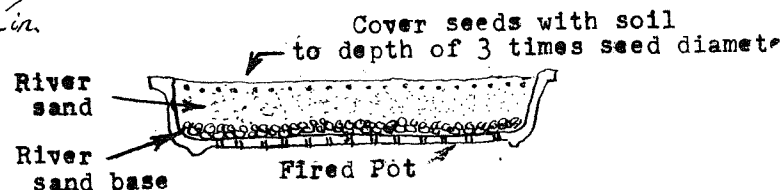
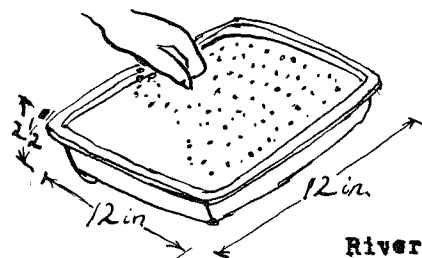
PREVENTION OF INSECT DAMAGE:

It is important to protect the trees against aphids and red spiders. Between December and February apply a dilute solution 30-35 parts water to one part lime-sulfur. Use a sprayer and spray trunk, sprouts, entire tree.

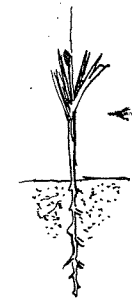
1 S T Y E A R

Translated by Jules Koetsch

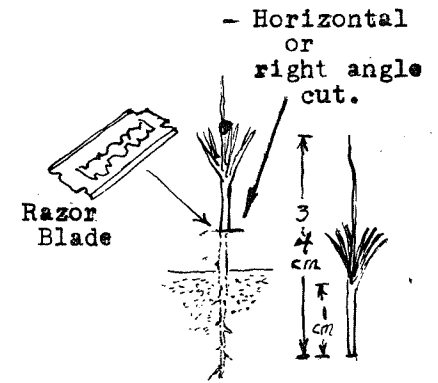
Sowing Seeds - First  
10 Days of April



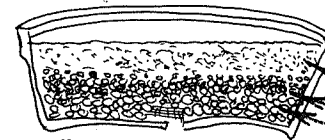
Use a plain porcelain pot of a shape suitable for evergreens. Use seeds gathered in the Autumn of the previous year and properly preserved. Plant the seeds with soil covering them to a depth three (3) times the diameter of a seed. Provide the seeds with one-half a day of shade.



Amount of Growth  
10 Days After  
Sowing Seed  
and Watering.

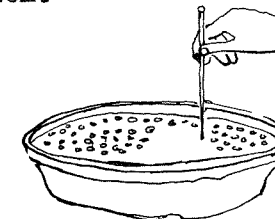


Measure height of cut to provide 3-4 cm (1 to 1 1/2 inches) overall with 1-cm (1/2 inch) trunk. Do not let it dry.



Fine river sand  
Coarse river sand  
Large river sand

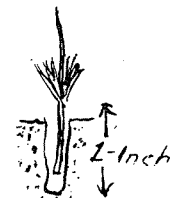
Preparation of Cutting Bed. Use a simple, number 10 pot. Water the soil thoroughly so that it runs out of the bottom.



Use a chopstick to make no more than 150 holes of inch depths equally spaced in -inch diameter pot.



Put the cut end in the hole to the full 1-inch height of the trunk, - the needles just touching the soil

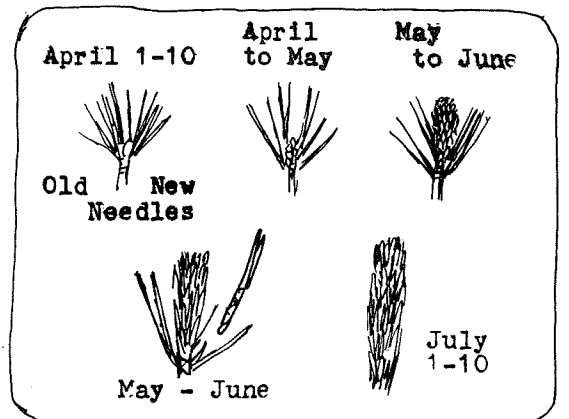


Growth of Sprouts

Water Adequately

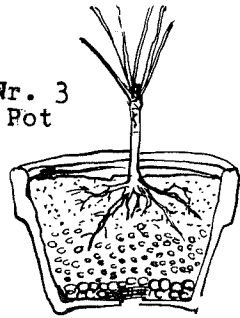


Appearance after watering.

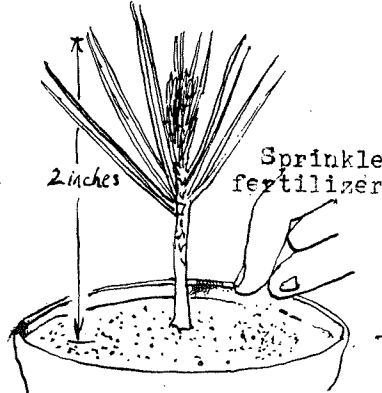


2ND YEAR

Nr. 3 Pot



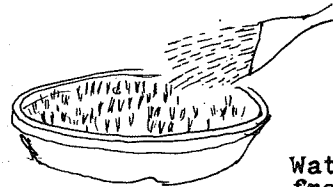
Coarse, medium, fine river sands. In repotting do not injure the deep roots. Spread them in the soil. Water adequately. Pot during April 1-10.



From mid-June through October apply thinned, scrap oil lightly to the surfaces of the pots. Apply oil once per month. Water twice daily

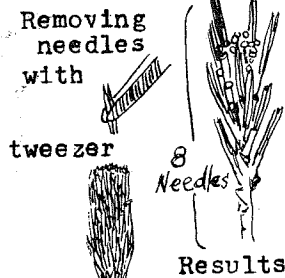


Put in a greenhouse during the first 10 days of December. Water when surface appears dry.



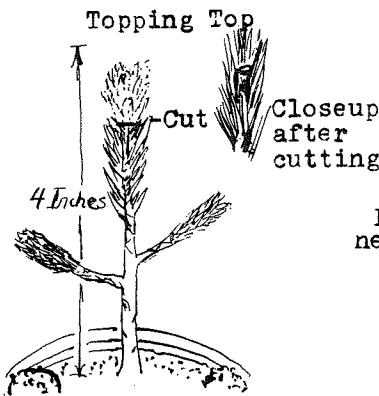
Water so that it runs from the bottom of the pot. Provide one-half a day shade. Look for new needles.

3RD YEAR



Pluck needles leaving 8 or a few more needles during May through September.

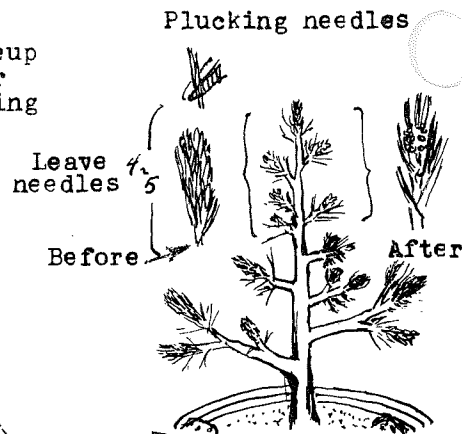
4TH YEAR



The head or top of the tree is cut during June.

Hereafter apply fertilizer in balls.

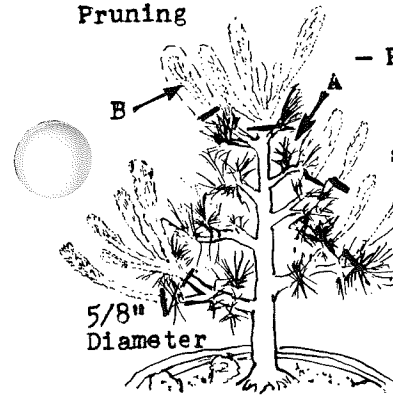
5TH YEAR



During September through November pluck every other needle to leave 4 to 5 on every sprout.

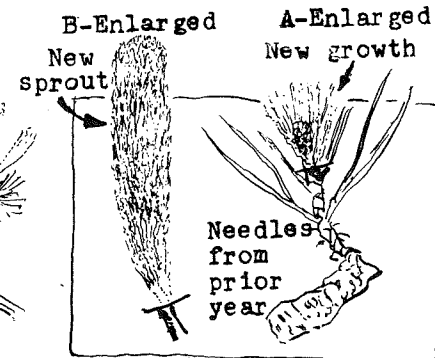
6TH YEAR

Pruning



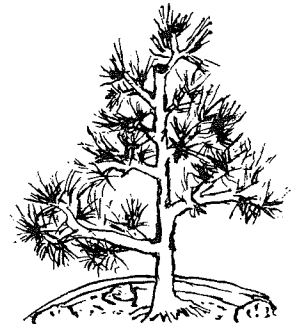
Prune new sprouts. Diameter of trunk is about 5/8 inches. Prune during first 10 days of May.

- Pruning cuts

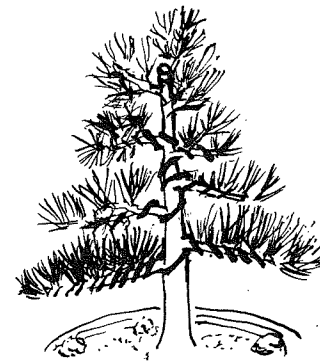


Prune every branch as shown above, both old as well as new. Leave 5-5 needles on the old branches.

After pruning



Results of pruning. Wire branches.



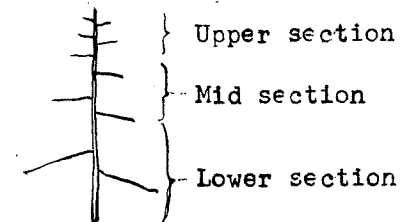
Wire is applied in September and left on through February. Lower branches are bent slightly below horizontal. Middle branches are horizontal.

7TH YEAR

Wire left on from last September thru February.



Do not remove wires if not digging into bark. Wire upper branches to bend slightly above the vertical.



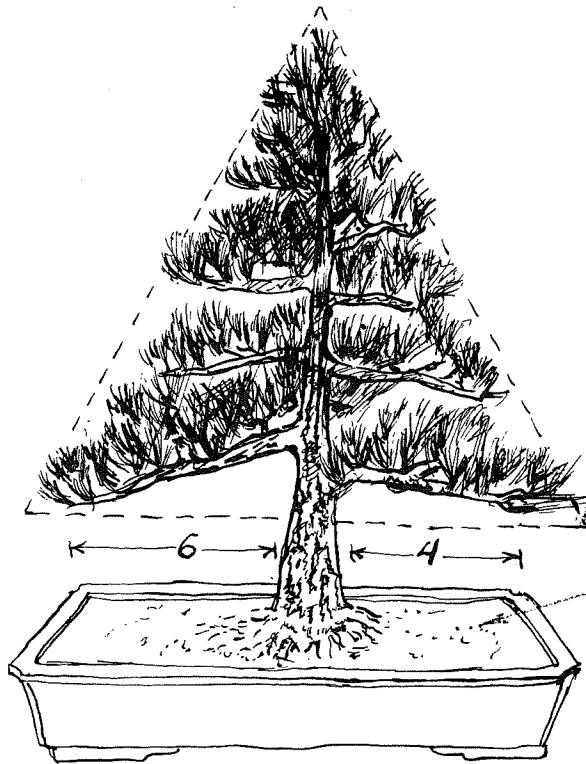
Sketch of branch-trunk angles

B L A C K P I N E  
FROM SEED

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PERIOD OF YEAR	Y E A R						
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
JANUARY			Apply insecticide				
APRIL 1-10	Sow seed. Shade for 1/2 day.	Pot. Put outdoors on shelf. Water sufficiently	Fertilize		Repot	Fertilize	
11-20	Seeds germinate						
21-31			Fertilize				
MAY 1-10			Fertilize Commence plucking needles			Fertilize	
11-20	Cut off root. Shade for 1/2 day.						
21-31			Fertilize			Prune	
JUNE 1-10			Fertilize Top tree			Fertilize	
11-20		Fertilize					
21-30			Fertilize				
JULY 1-10			Fertilize Apply insecticide			Fertilize	
11-20		Fertilize				Cut unwanted branches. Wire branches	
21-31			Fertilize			Fertilize	
AUG 1-10			Fertilize				
11-20		Fertilize					
21-31			Fertilize				
SEPT 1-10			Fertilize Stop plucking needles.		Start plucking top needles.	Fertilize	Wire.
11-20		Fertilize					
21-30			Fertilize				
OCT 1-10			Fertilize			Fertilize	
11-20		Fertilize					
21-31			Fertilize				
DEC 1-10		Move into greenhouse					

8th Year and subsequent years repeat the wiring and pruning to maintain the pyramidal look and avoid too much development at the top of the tree. Repot the tree every three (3) to four (4) years.



Use river sand as soil with fine as top layer, medium as mid layer and heavy size as drainage layer

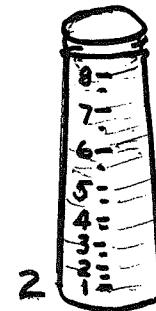
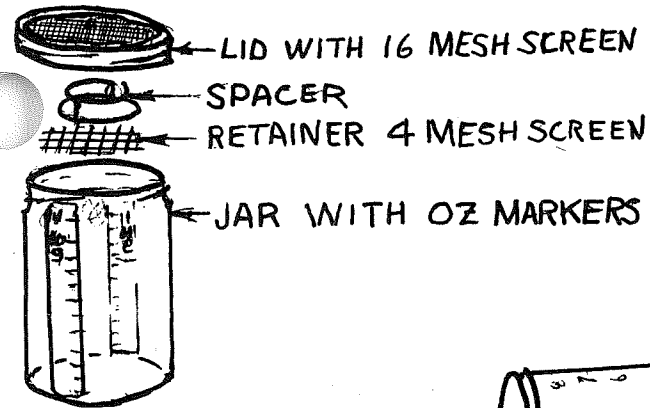
10 TH YEAR Tree should be in a good bonsai pot. The roots should be spread evenly on the surface of the soil in all directions. The branches should be wired so that they conform to the angles shown in the accompanying stick diagram

## HARVEY EVERETT'S SOIL MEASUREMENT METHOD

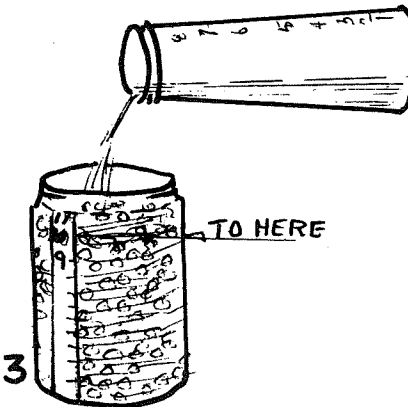
The method used to obtain the relative volume of soil solids, liquid, and gas which was tabulated with some data along with the "Soil Survey Update" article appearing in the February 1980 issue is as follows.

Preparation. First, a graduate to measure volume is needed. An 8-fluid ounce (oz.)/250 cc baby bottle will do very nicely as it is marked to half-oz. and is suitable for estimates of tenth-ounces. The soil test jar is a 12-oz. food jar with a lid. The jar is marked on opposite sides for 9, 10, and 11 oz. to allow adjustment for expansion or shrinkage of the wetted soil. A hole to the size of the jar opening is cut into the lid and a 16-mesh screen is inserted. The sample is restrained by a 4-mesh screen sized to the jar opening and a copper wire spacer whose height is from the 10-oz. mark to the lid screen.

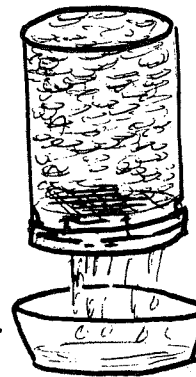
### TEST JAR PARTS



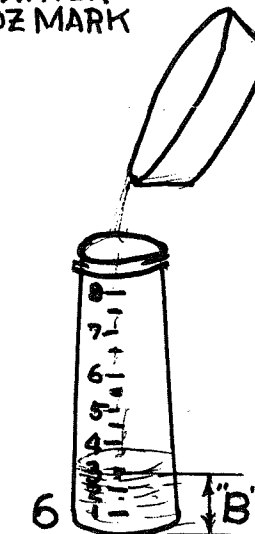
2 FILL GRADUATE WITH WATER TO 8 OZ MARK



3 POUR WATER TO 10 OZ MARK

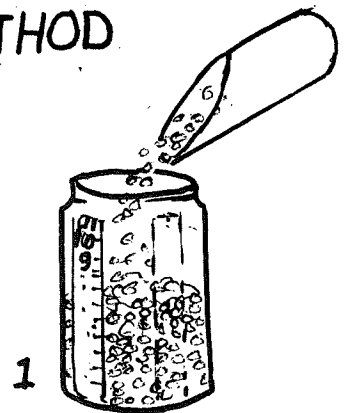


5 ATTACH SPACER & LID, INVERT JAR, AND COLLECT DRAINAGE

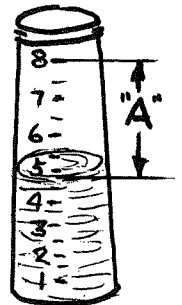


6 MEASURE DRAINAGE "B" IN GRADUATE

### METHOD



1 FILL TEST JAR WITH SOIL TO 10 OZ MARK



4 MEASURE DIFFERENCE "A"

### CALCULATIONS

SOLIDS = 10 - A  
LIQUID = A - B  
GAS = B

ME

# PBA 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY- 1981

The Potomac Bonsai Association, in commemoration of its 10th anniversary, is planning the publication of a book (in 1981) containing PBA Newsletter "Trees of the Month" articles from the beginning through December 1980. The Board is trying to determine the feasibility of this project and would like your feedback if you would be interested in purchasing such a book. Estimated cost will likely be \$15-20, depending on the number of interested people.

Please let us know of your interest by contacting the president, of your local club or Dave Morse, 9901 Good Luck Road, #102, Seabrook, Maryland 20801 (301) 794-8127.



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## PBA CONSTITUTION : PROPOSED AMENDMENT

In accordance with the PBA Constitution Article IX on amendments, notice is hereby given on a proposed amendment to the PBA By-Laws. This proposed amendment is to be voted on at the next PBA Annual Meeting. The reason for the proposed amendment is that the current PBA Constitution and By-Laws does not contain any statements covering the filling of a PBA Officer position when it has been vacated prior to the termination of the elected term of office. The proposed amendment is to add to Article VI of the PBA By-Laws, the following section:-

\*2.6 In the event that the following PBA Officer positions of First Vice President, Educational Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, are vacated prior to the termination of the elected term of office, the PBA Board of Directors may appoint a PBA member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the elected term of office.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS, MAY 1980-APRIL, 1981

PRESIDENT:

\_\_\_\_\_ Arschel Morell

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Holmes

EDUCATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Clif Pottberg

\_\_\_\_\_ Jules Koetsch

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Bird

\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Dambowic

SECRETARY

\_\_\_\_\_ Bob Sitnick

\_\_\_\_\_ Sue Montrose

TREASURER

\_\_\_\_\_ Vicki Ballantyne

\_\_\_\_\_ John Patterson

Once again it is election time for PBA. The above list contains the slate of officers. Please plan to vote at the PBA Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 26, 1980, 5:30, at the National Arboretum. The annual show at the Arboretum is also this weekend. Plans are being pursued to have our annual party after the annual meeting like we did last year. If you can't attend, send your signed ballot with another club member. Extra ballots will be available at the meeting. Come and have some fun.

## Club Calendar

- MARCH 1, Saturday--Note: Meeting time changed, 10 a.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center. Howard Clark will lecture and give a slide presentation on how to photograph Bonsai. Bring a tree[. See you there. NOVA.
- March 9, Sunday, The PBA Newsletter goes to press for the April edition. We all articles on this date.
- March 15, Saturday--John Hreha will conduct a workshop. Please bring trees and tools, no repotting. We will meet at St. Margarets Church. Annapolis. 120'clock is the time for this meeting.
- March 15, Saturday--Collecting trip. Washington.
- March 16, Sunday--Cylburn Park Mansion, 3p.m. A Soils and repotting workshop with Cliff Pottberg. All PBA members are welcome to attend, a raffle will be held with pots and plants as prizes. Baltimore Club-
- March 29, Saturday--Collecting trip, Davidsonville, Md. area. Meet at Fotomat booth, Patuxent Shopping Center, Rt. 3 and 450, Crofton, Md. 10:00. Beltway to Rt. 50, east toward Annapolis about 8 miles. Rt. 3 North toward Baltimore about 3 miles. Turn RIGHT on Rt. 450 (Widow Brown's Restaurant is on the corner). Shopping center is on right. Call Mary Holmes if you need more information. Bring a lunch and hope for a lovely day. Rain day on Sunday. This a joint PBA trip with Annapolis and Brookside and Washington and hopefully lots of other people. 70 acres of trees of all kinds, beech, hornbeam, etc.
- March?????--Philadelphia Flower Show. Who knows the dates. Let others know about this bonsai exhibit and the other spectacular exhibits.
- April 19, Saturday--Grooming Workshop-preparation for selecting trees for the Annual PBA show. Washington.
- April 26, 27, Saturday and Sunday--PBA Annual Show and Annual Meeting at the National Arboretum.
- May 1-3, Thursday -Saturday,--John Naka meets with the different PBA clubs. Plan to attend any or all events.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Often the question has been asked "What does PBA do for me in return for my five bucks a year?" The answer isn't simple. PBA sponsors several programs a year for anyone who wishes to participate, the most ambitious of which is the Symposium. So, you say, I pay for that by a registration fee and my five bucks is still unaccounted for. But your dues go, in part, to help underwrite that program. The club could not afford to bring in top-notch speakers and make their programs available to all its members without some monetary back-up in case registration capacity is not met and the club doesn't break even. This has happened more often in the past than we would wish, though our track record is greatly improved.

The largest part of your five bucks, however, goes to publishing just exactly what you're reading now. The PBA Newsletter is perhaps the single most important thing that PBA does for its members. It ties the clubs and members together in a way that no single activity could. Everyone gets one. It has articles of interest for the casual bonsai dabbler and the rabid enthusiast. More than once an article written by a PBA member will result in his being asked to speak on the subject at club meetings. Those who live north of Baltimore know what other PBAers are doing south of Washington, and vice versa.

A question which frequently arises in Board meetings is "... but do people read the New&letter?" Yes, it's recognized and respected all over the WORLD. Yes, it's been praised in meetings at the INTERNATIONAL conventions. But do our own people read it? The answer to that is, most do-some don't. YOU are, so that's important. You are getting something out of it or you wouldn't take the time. I'm really encouraged when someone calls or sees me somewhere and comments on an article I've written. (Yes, I have purchased the pots I intended to, bought the soil and ordered the Terra Green and wire, and I have a neighbor who is building the wooden boxes for me. That's for those of you who read my last President's Message and inquired.)

Addages are boring because they're so often repeated, and they're often repeated because they're true. You can't get anything out of something you don't put anything in to. Articles have to be read in order to learn something. I believe the Newsletter committee, and especially Jules Koetsch, is doing a fantastic job. Articles are informative, timely, and well researched. Jules does a lot of translating of articles from Japanese publications himself so they can be printed in our Newsletter. We hope you find them usefull and interesting. What else would you like to know about? The editor and committee are not mind-readers and we don't know what else we can do for you unless you tell us. Do you have a special interest? Would you like to write an article? If not, still let us know what you want to know and we'll get someone to do it. You have more telephone numbers than you'll need on the back of this Newsletter to contact someone. You get a whole lot for your five bucks, but only you can see that you get even more.

--- Mary Holmes



# A BONSAI FILLED WEEKEND

with  
**JOHN NAKA**

PBA friend and bonsai mater, John Naka, is returning to our area in May. Start thinking now which of the many different events you might want to participate in. As always, all local club events are open to general PBA members. A tentative schedule has been set up as follows:

Thursday evening, May 1--Baltimore, program to be announced  
Friday evening, May 2--NOVA, program to be announced  
Saturday morning, May 3--Brookside, Kiyomizu, Washington, tree critique  
Saturday afternoon, May 3--Annapolis, workshop

Please contact Vicki Ballantyne (647-3224) or your local club president if you wish to participate in the programs. There is a wide variety of programs so you ought to find a program that will fit your interests and your calendar. Observers to the Annapolis workshop, for instance, will pay \$2. Participants will pay a set fee. Now is the time to start looking for the fantastic piece of material you know you always wanted to have ready for the time that John would be coming through this area. How about some of the trees you collected last spring or even this spring. Or some really great material from a nursery. Or something you have been growing on just for this opportunity.

## CONTAINERS FOR BLACK PINE BONSAI

**DAVE DeGROOT**

A black pine tree looks good in an unglazed pot. The pot should be of one of the clays which have muted earth tones, such as brown, red, purple, or gray. The shape of the pot can be rectangular, square, round, oval, or hexagonal without decoration or edge. You may use a native rock to express a natural feeling of mountain or field. Before, the tree alone was enjoyed, but now the unified composition of tree, soil, and container is important.

The shape of the pot has been changed. Forty or fifty years ago pots were deep and small compared to size of the tree. The object was to elicit surprise in the viewer, that such an old, thick-trunked tree could be grown in so small a container. Recently, moderate-depth or shallow

containers with a large soil surface are the usually seen. The purpose is to give the viewer an awareness of the earth around the tree.

Until ten years ago, most Japanese growers used Chinese pots when they exhibited their trees. Now Japanese pots have been improved enough that they are used at exhibitions also.

Some potters say that pottery is an art of flame, and that containers fired with gas or electricity should not be called pottery. However, it is difficult to make wood or coal fired pottery today because of pollution restrictions. Modern pots can be mass produced with beautiful lines and shapes, but they do not have the warmth of old-style pottery. It is disturbing to see several pots exactly the same at an exhibition.

Bonsai is an art requiring years of effort to produce a special tree. Using a mass produced pot (which is not a work of art) to contain such a tree is not suitable. To truly suit bonsai, the pot should be hand-made and have a unique character.

Adding sawdust to the clay is one way of giving visual warmth as well as making it more porous.\*

Some potters in the Tokoname area make pots in this way. These pots are good to use with black pine.

For bonsai, the pot should have beautiful line and color, warmth, and be selected with an eye to good taste. The harmony of tree and pot is very important. A fine tree deserves a fine pot, but a fine pot cannot help an inferior tree, the two will merely look incongruous. An old tree should have an old pot, because a new pot does not harmonize.

A good selection of containers is very important. It used to be said that a grower should have ten pots for every tree. At today's prices, that is impossible, especially if you seek old Chinese containers. However, you should have as many containers as you can afford. Check the tree's appearance with several different pots. Height, shape, and trunk diameter are the basic criteria by which to choose a pot. Two trees of the same height and thickness will have different pots according to their character and branch arrangement. Selection is so difficult to describe that the best way of learning about harmony is to look at as many pictures and attend as many exhibits as possible.

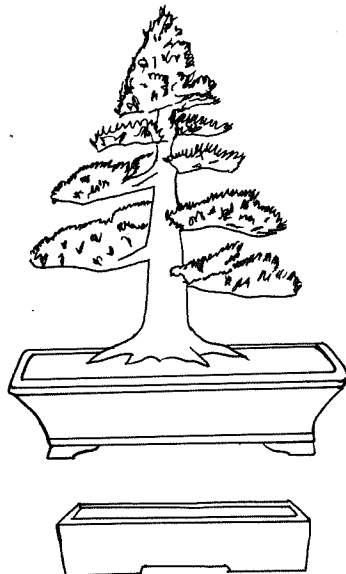
Standard pots for black pine bonsai are as follows: formal upright uses a shallow rectangle or oval pot. Bonsai with a slight slant or curves in the trunk use the same selection. Informal upright should have a rectangular or oval pot, but it can be a little deeper. A slanting tree can have a rectangular, oval, or round shallow pot.

\*Vaughn Banting explains that the clay for many of the fine old Chinese pots was taken from riverbanks where it had been deposited on silt. This clay was rich with organic matter - tiny particles which burned away during firing. The resulting pots were strong and hard, yet porous enough to let plants roots breath and allow excess moisture to pass through the walls. The presumed insulating qualities of the porous material together with moisture evaporation at the surface makes these pots cooler in the summer sun- and healthier for tree roots- than dense clay containers.

Today with old clay deposits exhausted, clay must be taken from deeper underground where it is quite pure. Therefore, the need arises to add organic material in the form of very fine sawdust. The "warmth" of appearance of the antique containers was caused by soot from the fire as well as chemicals released when the organic matter in clay oxidized. This created discolorations in the finished pot which varied from piece to piece. The addition of sawdust provides some of the "warmth" that would otherwise be lacking in pots fired in an electric or gas operated kiln.

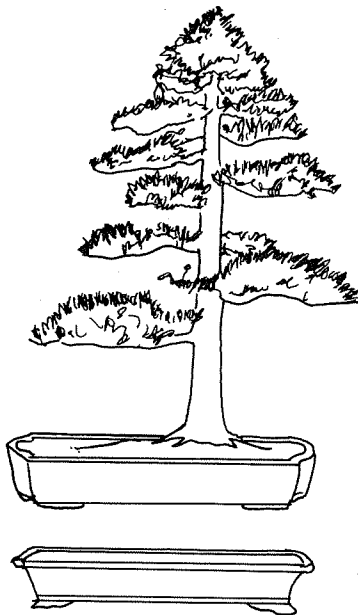
reprinted with permission from  
New Orleans Bonsai

1.



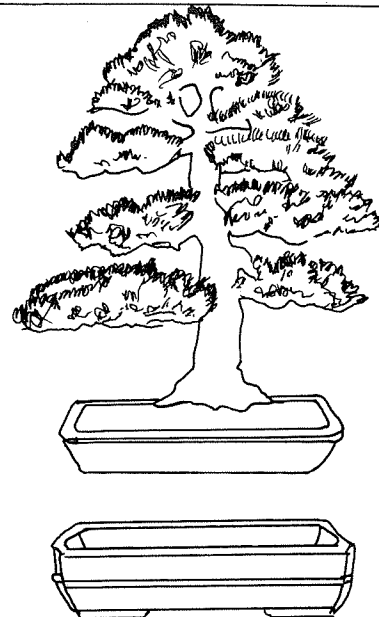
Formal, masculine tree. No. 1 pot too deep and decorative. No. 2 pot is more appropriate.

3.



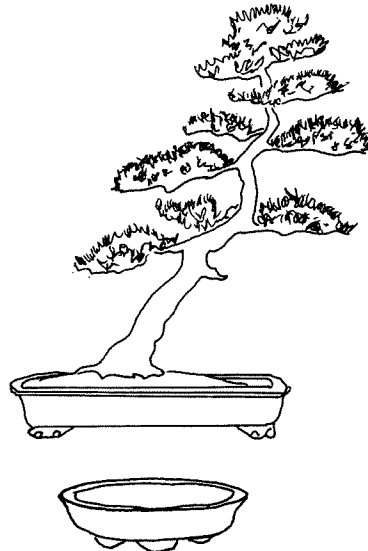
Tree is masculine, but trunk is slender, has elegant appearance. No. 1 pot too deep - better for feminine tree. No. 2 pot is proper depth and has elegant design.

2.



Trunk line is informal, appearance more feminine. No. 1 pot too shallow, No. 2 pot round corners, no lip is more suitable.

4.



Tree is tall, graceful, slender, but has more visual mass than Bunjin. No. 1 pot too formal - Better for shorter tree or thicker trunk. No. 2 pot is more suitable - has grace but more depth than Bunjin container.

## SNIPS & SLIPS FOR THE BIRDS

For those who have just a few or small bonsai, a solution to running all over for gravel at repotting time might be parakeet grit. It contains crushed gravel and has the necessary sharp edges to promote a fibrous root system. It is also readily available at any pet, hardware, or grocery store. The only caution would be to avoid using it with plants which are not lime tolerant, as parakeet grit also contains crushed oyster shells.

### GOING TO POT

For those whose bonsai are not inaccessible during the winter months, the question of whether to repot particular trees may be solvable. While the ground is still frozen, gently remove the tree, soil and all, from its container and check the roots. If lots of roots are showing, you'll know it's time to repot in the spring and trees can be tagged accordingly.

### GETTING GOUGED

Springtime is the time when a bonsaiist's fancy turns to thoughts of being ambitious about really shaping up his trees. That is not to say that we are not a romantic lot, but an ordinary romantic would probably be driven nuts to learn that sometimes trees come first even in the springtime.

My bonsai enthusiasm in the spring has more than once led me on the side of rashness rather than caution and one of the things I have learned the hard way to be cautious about is severe woodcarving. I have carved out a tree trunk with great care in the spring only to have it die in the summer. Perhaps the amount of force needed to get the results I wanted jostled the roots at a time when they were working hard at growing. At any rate, the cambium growth doesn't really start until mid-summer anyway, so I have now selected this time to do my carving. I'm busy enough in the spring as it is, this gives me something to do with my trees in the summer besides water, and my cuts are made at a time when the cambium heals quickly.

--- Mary Holmes

### IN REMEMBRANCE

FRANK FUSAJI NAGATA  
1890-1980

It is with great regret we have learned of the death of Frank Nagata. He was one of the Great Bonsai Masters and a founder of the California Bonsai Society. He will be sorely missed in the bonsai community.

Mr. Nagata is succeeded by his daughter and son-in-law Kay and Khan Komai. Our heart-felt sympathy goes out to them and their family.