

POTOMAC  
BONSAI  
ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



## KAEDE (TRIDENT MAPLE)

by Takenma Takenai

Translated by Jules Koetsch

This translation is of one of three articles by the Japanese author, Takenai Takenma, which appeared in Seibundo Shinka Sha, 1974.

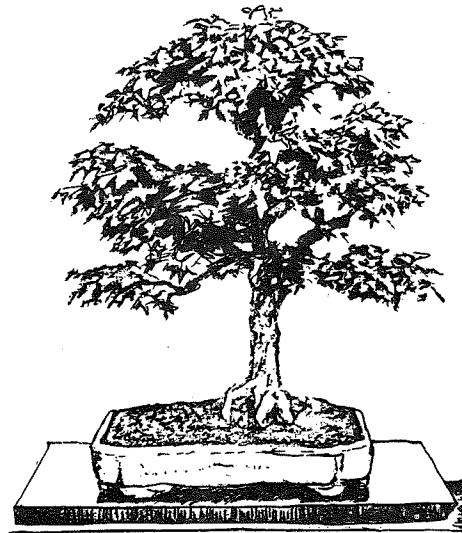
### KAEDE - TRIDENT MAPLE PART I

The Japanese author of this article, in recent years, had the honor to take part in founding a fish hobby association and has now directed his attention to raising trees. He has interested himself in periodically styling the trees which have good surface root spread, to bonsai. The article does not concern itself with starting the kaede or trident maple from seed. The methods described herein can be applied to keyahi (Japanese grey-bark elm or saw-leaved zelkovia).

#### Tree Species: Details on Purchasing:

This section provides details to be observed when purchasing a tree.

Beginners should select trees with trunk diameters not exceeding 4 inches at their bases. The diameter could be 6 to 8 inches, but this should be left to the more experienced bonsaiist. The latter



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can offset the risks associated with reducing the size of a larger tree to one to bonsai. Select a tree with a number of evenly distributed, well tapering roots.

The time for transplanting a tree is between February 20th and March 20th. Arrange to do the transplanting as a one-time operation without temporarily transplanting the tree at this time of year when the ground can be dug.

Guide for Planting: The kaede can be a species that you have personally grown in your courtyard. The best choice of a tree which can be made into a bonsai by this method, is to select one with a trunk diameter, at the base, of 4 inches and a good spread of roots.

The branches are to be pruned before the tree is removed from the ground. Remove about 30 percent of the lengths of the branches and seal the cuts (see the illustration). In digging up the tree, leave tapering roots which extend a distance from the trunk distance of 2 to 3 times the trunk diameter at the base. Note that a 4 inch trunk diameter will make the root ball diameter 16 inches, which is large enough to work with and will not jeopardize the survival of the tree. A 6 to 8 inch trunk diameter may not survive with that size root ball.

Directions for Planting in Wood Box or Big Pot: Purchase a big pot or make or buy a wooden box of red cedar to serve as a temporary container. The dimensions should be approximately 8 inches deep and 16 inches by 10 inches along the sides. Transplant the tree into the pot without removing the soil from the root ball. Have the bottom of the container lined for drainage with large red clay pellets (large terra green), and fill in around the root ball with a mix of 7 parts red clay (terra green) and 3 parts paulownia soil, screened through a medium to fine sieve-mesh. After potting, thoroughly water the planting with tapwater.

Care of Plant: Keep the tree indoors after planting in the pot, but be careful that it has adequate watering on a daily basis. When the buds start to emerge, around April 1st to 10th, move the tree outdoors onto a shelf. Continue to pay attention to the plant to insure that the soil does not dry-up, water when the surface soil appears dry. Between April 10th and 20th, the buds open. Absolutely do not cut the new sprouts. After a month of sunny weather, the plant will be overgrown with leaves.

After July 1st through 10th, the sun is at its highest and the strong summer heat will dry up the plant. Mist it frequently and cover the surface with peat moss to reduce soil evaporation. During September 1st through 10th, the Autumn winds are strong, but the new roots should be adequate to keep the tree from being blown over. At that time, make one application of a weakened fertilizer ( $\frac{1}{2}$  strength shown on the label). Do not fertilize for the remainder of the year, but water as required (do not let the plant dry out).

In October, because of the reduction in branch and root lengths resulting from the transplanting in early Spring, the leaves and twigs fall off. Do not neglect to water the soil although the tree appears dormant. During December 1st through 10th, put the plant in a greenhouse.

#### 2ND YEAR MANAGEMENT

During this year, the kaede will remain in the wooden box or large starter pot. The tree can be severely injured during this year if any plastic surgery (radical) pruning is done between March 1st and March 10th. Leave the tree in the wooden box or large starter pot for another year and be diligent in controlling the fertilizer applications.

Pruning in the Spring should occur between March 1st and 20th. Of the new sprouts, as they develop, select as shown in the figure, twigs so that two or three sets of the new leaves are left behind. This Spring pruning is done in the greenhouse.

During April 1st through 10th, move the kaede outdoors onto a shelf. From this time until October, fertilizer pellets or balls at each feeding, - space them equally around the plant and alternate placement so that succeeding pellets do not sit where the last pellets or dumplings were located. When the soil appears dry, do not neglect to water the plant.

The tree may be full of energy and by June, one might want to clip or prune an abundant growth of leaves. However, for the most part, avoid any pruning other than that which was done in March of this year. Do pay attention to the fertilizing so that the tree will gain its maximum strength. Place the plant in a greenhouse between December 1st and 10th.

#### 3RD YEAR - BUSY TIME

Beginning with the 3rd year, do not miss the scheduled dates to prune, pot in a bonsai pot, clip the leaves, prune and manage the fertilizing and watering or you may regret your missing them.

Pruning: Prune-to-shape the tree while it is in the greenhouse between March 1st and 10th (see the illustration). To attain the desired shape, plastic surgery (radical pruning) is necessary.

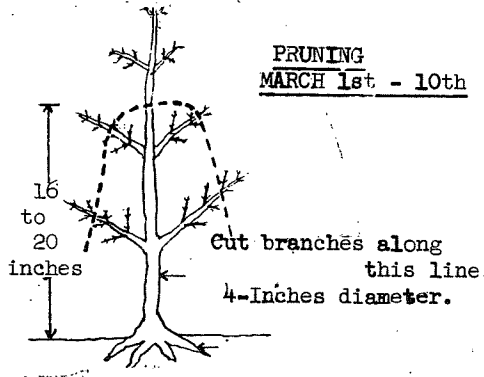
Potting in a Bonsai Pot: During the period of March 10th through 31st (when in the future, you should prune old bonsai trees), repot the kaede. Remove the tree from the wooden box or large pot, remove only the roots and soil as shown in the diagram, and pot the tree using large red-clay (loam) for the bottom (drainage) layer, and for the remainder, a mix of 7 parts red clay (loam) and 3 parts paulownia tree sand. A good choice for a pot is one with an oval shape, but large enough not to crowd the roots. Water the soil from a sprinkling can so that the water runs out of the pot's drain holes, - doing this daily until the plant leaves the greenhouse between April 1st and 10th, to be placed outdoors on a shelf.

Place two fertilizer dumplings on the soil surface at the time that the plant is placed outdoors.

Plant Management and the Results: During the 4th year and 5th year, the same tasks listed for the 3rd year are to be repeated. Persevere in doing the prescribed pruning work during March 1st through 10th coincident with the sprouting of the new branches. Do not prune the branches where no new growth has opened up. The time to remove the late appearing growth is in May through June when vigorous pruning is in order to open up the spaces and shape the tree (see the illustration). As before, apply fertilizer dumplings once per month and manage the watering.

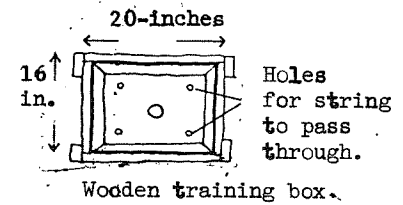
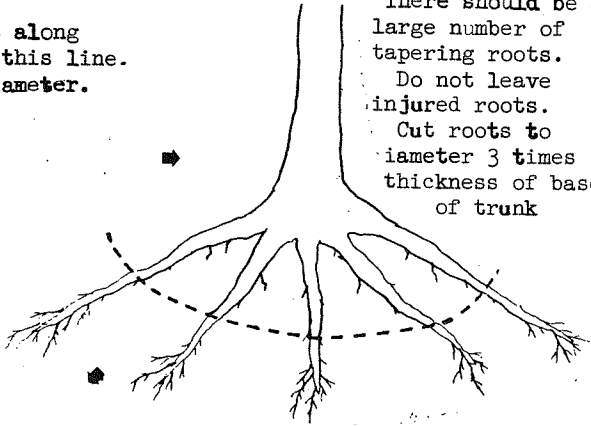
Leaf - Clipping and Pruning: From June to July, do the leaf-clipping and pruning. As shown in the illustration, remove the leaves by clipping the leaf stems, but avoid damaging the new buds in the vertex of the axils. When pruning small branches, leave two pairs of leaf nodes behind. When working on the trunk, cover the wound with a sealer ointment.

As always, be on the lookout for sucker sprouts, and remove them. Heavy branches will not form if the pruning and leaf clipping are carried out.

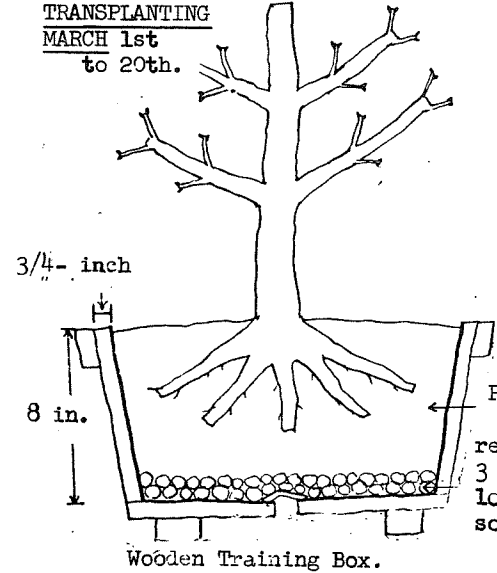


## First Year

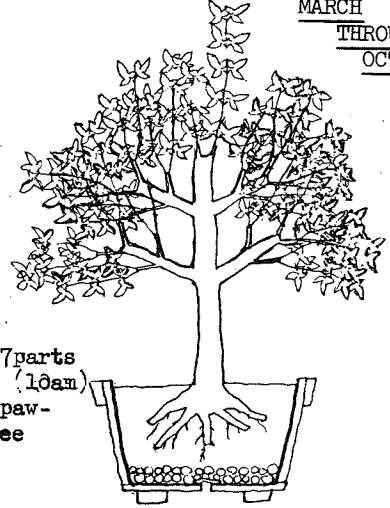
Trunk should be 4-inches in diameter at the base.  
 There should be a large number of tapering roots.  
 Do not leave injured roots.  
 Cut roots to diameter 3 times thickness of base of trunk



TRANSPLANTING  
 MARCH 1st to 20th.



APPEARANCE OUT OF GREENHOUSE  
 MARCH THROUGH OCTOBER



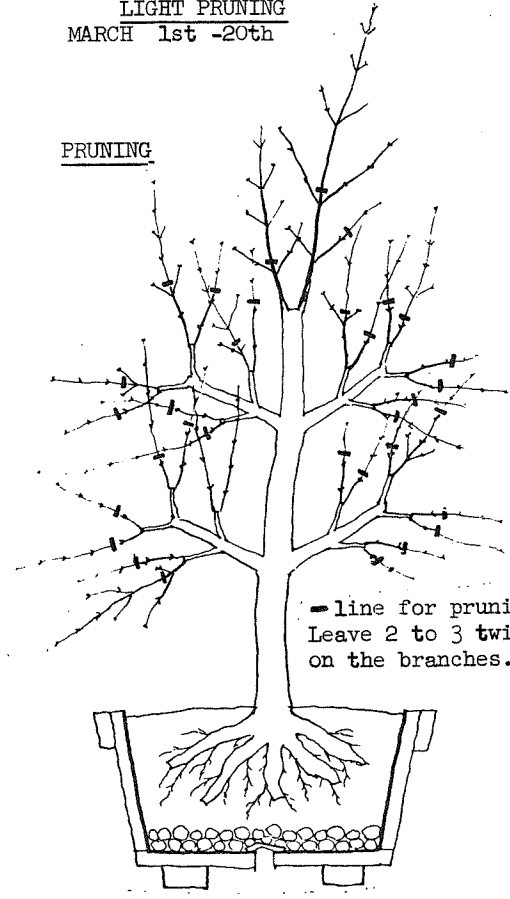
Potting soil- 7parts red clay (loam) 3 parts paw-lonia tree soil.

LIGHT PRUNING  
 MARCH 1st -20th

## Second Year

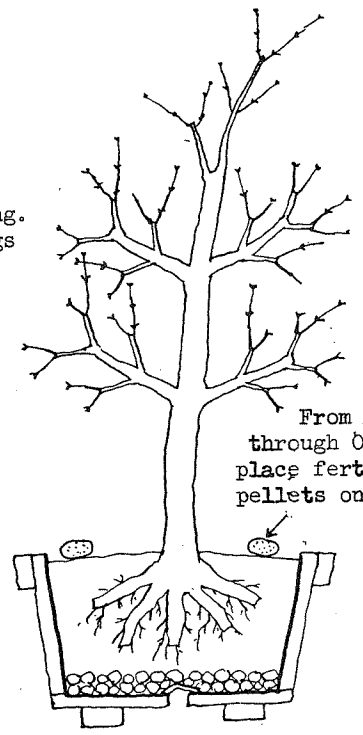
Do not transplant the tree in a bonsai pot the second year. It should be left in the training box to permit it to gain strength for the plastic surgery pruning and enter the month of June exceedingly strong and healthy. The tree will then survive the pruning of all the leaves in July.

PRUNING



Conduct light pruning as soon as the buds are about to sprout new leaves. Leave 2 to 3 twigs on the branches. Keep the plant in a greenhouse.

AFTER PRUNING

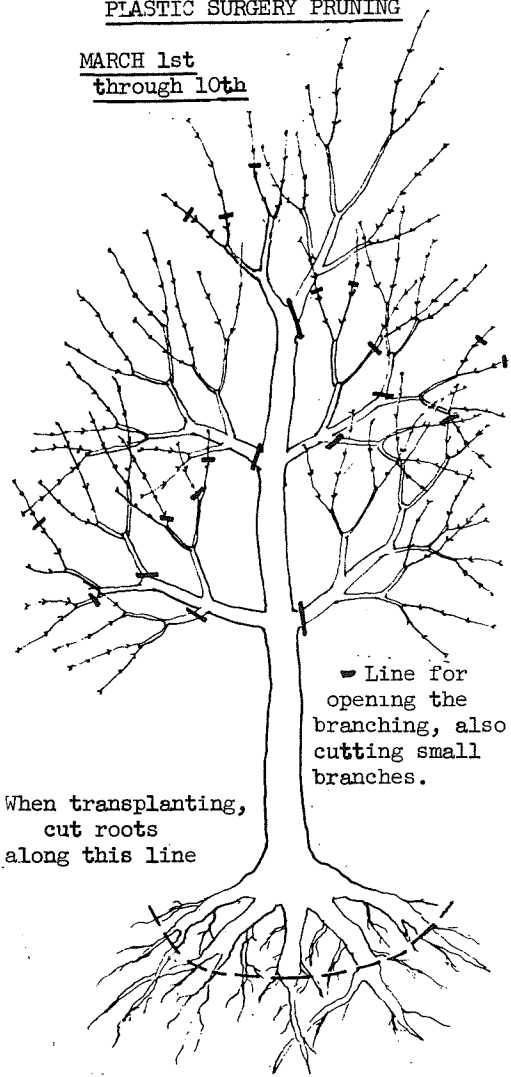


From April through October place fertilizer pellets once per month

The growth is restrained to the small branches which were not removed.

PLASTIC SURGERY PRUNING

MARCH 1st through 10th



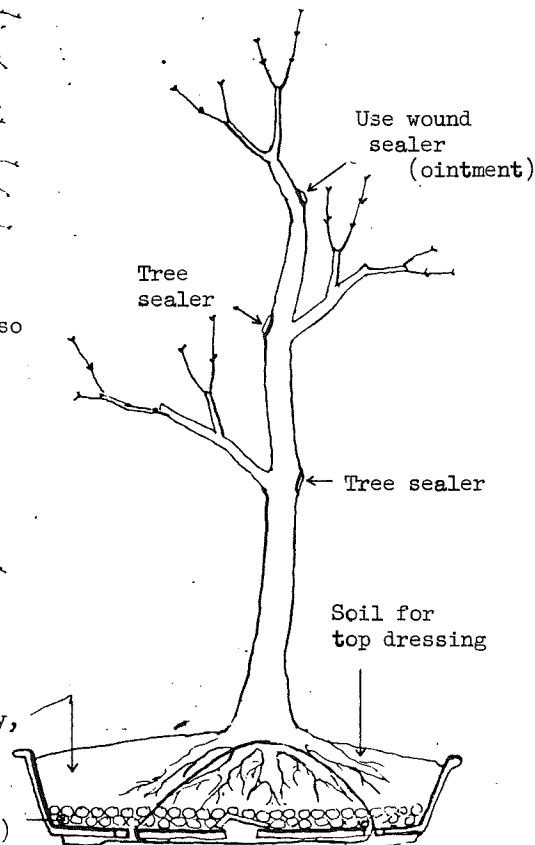
When transplanting, cut roots along this line

Line for opening the branching, also cutting small branches.

**Third Year**

PLACING IN A BONSAI POT

MARCH 10th through 20th



Potting soil- 7parts red clay, 3 parts pawlonia tree sand.

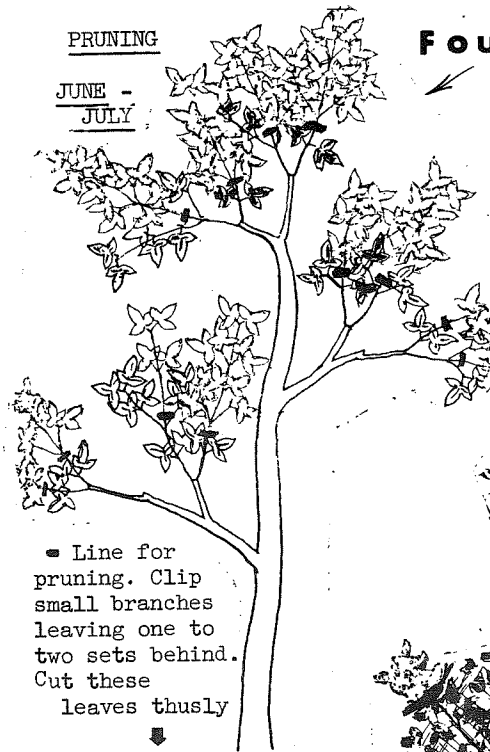
Large pebble size pieces of red clay (loam)

Choose a bonsai pot which compliments the tree. Position the tree properly in the pot.

PRUNING

**Fourth Year**

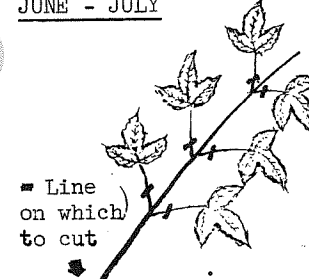
JUNE - JULY



Line for pruning. Clip small branches leaving one to two sets behind. Cut these leaves thusly

LEAF CLIPPING

JUNE - JULY

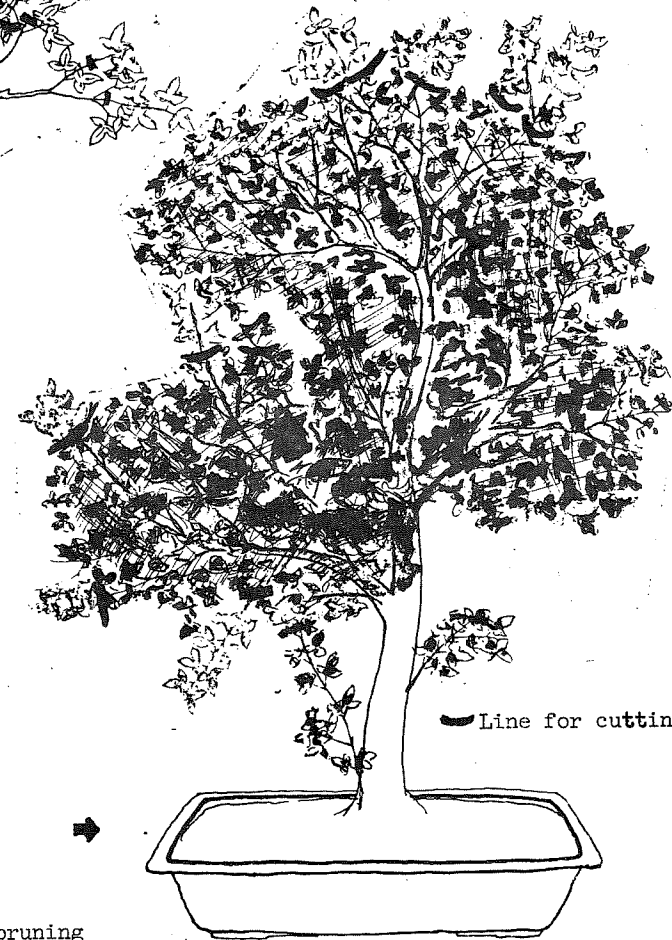


Line on which to cut

Besides doing the above pruning in June/July, also do the pruning in the Spring shown for the 3rd year.

**Fifth Year**

TRIM SPROUTS JUNE 1st - 10th



Line for cutting

In the fifth year, prune the new growth to maintain the overall shape as above, leaving the old branches and open spaces. Clip all the leaves. In the sixth year repeat the work of the fourth year.

# Guide to Ceramic Bonsai Containers

by Phil Tacktil

Bonsai containers are a subject seldom touched upon by authors of bonsai books.

Since we bonsai growers and hobbyists use a great many bonsai containers, we should have some understanding of the vast variety of containers and their prices, styles, colors, and shapes. We will try, with the aid of some illustrations, to indicate what may cause prices to vary. We will also try to indicate which container is best suited for the different styles of trees.

First, some general information that is usually true:

Japanese ceramic containers are fired at 2000° F. which is fired at a higher temperature than other countries.

Poured containers are the least expensive.

Press moulded containers are medium to high priced.

Thrown containers are medium to high priced.

Hand formed containers are in the high price range.

Antique containers are the most expensive and most difficult to identify.

\*\*\*Each additional operation in manufacture will add to cost\*\*\*

## ILLUSTRATION OF CONTAINERS

If you note the illustrations, it becomes obvious that each addition to the basic form of container B adds to the cost. The finer the detail, the more the cost. (Illustration B, shows three views, side, top, bottom); and right side #1 is the simplest, and the left side #2 is the more ornate. The additional details added to the basic containers illustrated are as follows: #3 is a cloud leg, #4 is a bottom rim, #5 is a window panel recess, #6 are drawings and designs on the body, (a right side drawing is shown), #7 is an upper lip, #8 is a notch in the corner of container with a rim. Add a glaze and you have just run the price of a simple container way up. Some of these details can be molded in a poured container but are usually not in sharp detail. The illustration on Chart B, #9 shows construction of a container design that can be poured or press molded. Its design is such that it can easily be withdrawn from the mold. Note the top of design indents and the bottom protrudes so it can be slid from mold.

Irregular forms if used properly should be an asset, and in Japan they are prized possessions. They are what makes one container different from all that are produced. Much can be said for individuality of containers.

Chart A

### CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTAINERS

TYPE OF CONTAINER	DISTINGUISHING FEATURES						
	SINK MARKS	ANY SHAPE	NORMALLY ROUND	THIN LIGHT	THICK HEAVY	GLAZED	UNGLAZED
poured slip mold A	*Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes
press mold C		Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
thrown B			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
hand formed C	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

All of the above sometimes have potter's marks. (X) The last two may have artists' signatures. (Y) some fine containers may have no markings at all.

\*See Chart B for X and Y.

See Chart B for examples of all styles and details.

## MATCHING TREE STYLE AND CONTAINER FORMS

Generally speaking, straight lines on a container go best with a straight (upright) tree or trees. Curved lines go best with informal trees. Chart "C" shows suggested combinations of tree styles with container styles.

The black dot in the illustration on Chart C indicates the recommended placement of the tree in the container. The more ornate the bonsai container, the more powerful or dramatic a tree is required. The container should harmonize and compliment the tree. Color of the container is most important. With evergreens, Red (Terracotta), Brown, and Green body colors are recommended. With fruiting and flowering bonsai and/or trees with bright fall colors, one should choose a container with a color that compliments the most colorful phase of the tree.

Thought should be given when you use bright colored containers and one should consider the effect of looking at a blue glazed container, 4" or 6" deep by 20" long. This long panel of color would require a tree that can contrast with such a large colored area. On the other hand, the area of a mame bonsai container 2" x 2" that is bright red would not be offensive, since the colored area is so small.

Trees should be displayed at their time of maximum color.

There are many rules on how long and wide a container should be. I find that one's eye would be a good judge in that determination, and that there is a

wide latitude in that selection. However I find the depth of the container as it pertains to the thickness at the base of the trunk is of major importance. The formula that I use for that is the depth of the container should be from 1/2 the thickness of the base of trunk to 2 1/2 times its thickness.

An obvious exception would be semi cascade and cascade trees, where the depth of the container is an important counter balance to the mass of foliage outside the container.

Other items or facts that are helpful are:

A. If you display a square container with its top forward, you double the length of the container.

B. Vive la difference. I, like many people welcome a container that differs; what Americans refer to as an irregular container, I would look at (a warped container) as a one of a kind or the thing that makes my container different.

C. Containers should be stored outside and aged like the bonsai. This will achieve a patina and soften the colors of the containers.

*The author Phil Tacktil has many years experience behind him. Now proprietor of Jiu San Bonsai in Farmingdale, N.Y., he is a charter member and past president of the Bonsai Society of Greater N.Y. In addition he is a member of the board of directors of B.C.I. and a co-chairman of the 1979 International Bonsai Convention.*

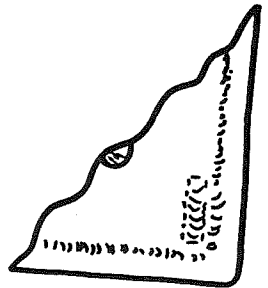
or Chart "D"

Color of Fruit, Flower, & Foliage									
	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Violet	Brown	White	Orange	Black
White	•	•	•		•		•		•
Violet		•			•				•
Pink		•		•	•		•		•
Red		•		•			•		•
Yellow	•	•	•			•	•		•
Blue	•			•			•	•	•
Orange		•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Green	•			•		•	•	•	•

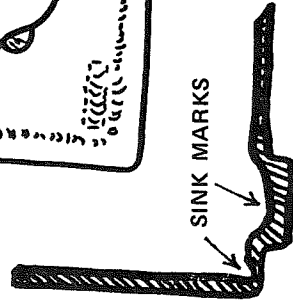
Allowance should be made for the vast range of shades within the color bands. This chart suggests combinations, but should not limit your choice.



MOLD "A" POURED SLIP



SINK MARKS



"B" THROWN

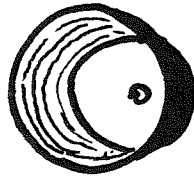
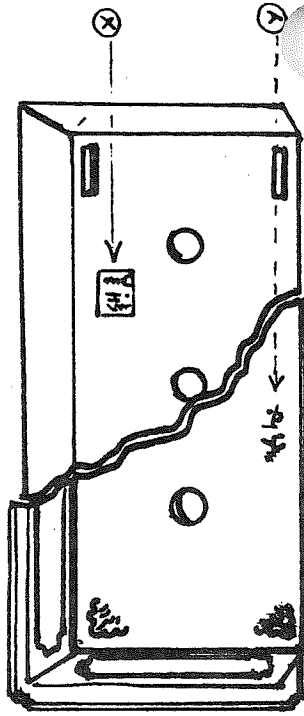
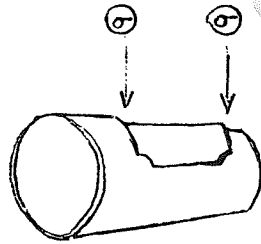
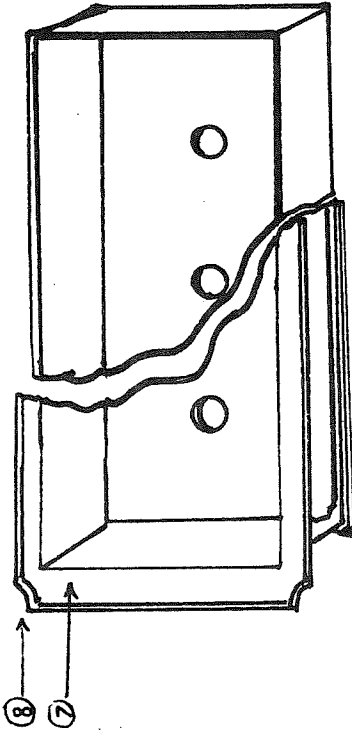
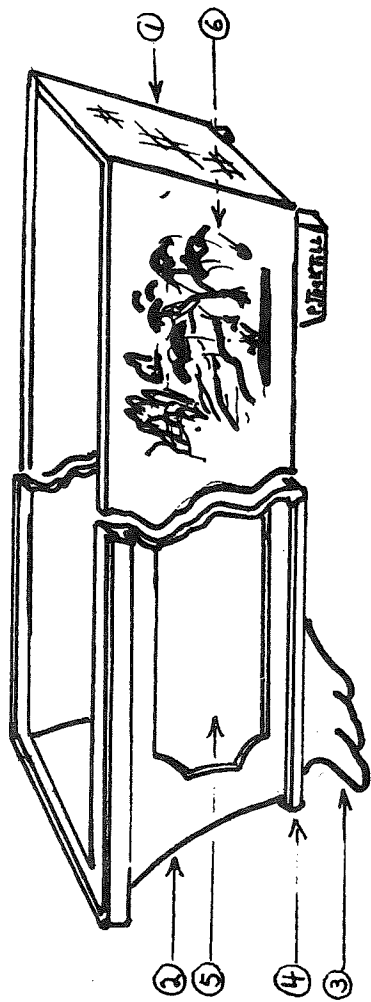


CHART B



TRIDENT MAPLE

SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL CARE

MONTH DAYS	YEAR					
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH
March 1st- 20th	Dig-up tree. Prune. Cutroots. Transplant.	Light pruning.	Plastic surgery pruning	Pruning- opening up branches.	Plastic surgery pruning	Pruning.
March 10th- 20th			Pot in a bonsai pot.			
May 20th thru July					Clip sprouts	
June- July			Prune Clip leaves			
					Open branch structure	
July	Put under latt- ice for filtered shade. Water adequately					
Sept. 1st - 10th	Remove from shade. Fertilize once.					
Nov 1st-10th						Stop fertilizing
Dec 1st - 10th	Put in greenhouse					

## Editor's Notes:

\*The lead article in this issue of the PBA Newsletter is the first of a three part series covering Kaede or trident maple. These are follow-ons to the excellent article Mary Holmes authored and which appeared in the March 1981 issue of the PBA Newsletter. The PBA Fall Symposium has a theme of maples and these articles should bring you up to speed if you're not there already. As before, sift through the articles and single out the similarities and weigh the discrepancies to select the steps you deem apropos to your locale as for climate and light. In the immortal words of Keith Scott, "Remember what may work for others, may assassinate your tree".

\*Phil Tackill's article on bonsai containers first appeared in the Spring 1979 edition of Bonsai Bulletin published by The Bonsai Society of Greater New York. I always look forward to my business trips to Long Island because they take me close to Phil's Jiu-San bonsai shop and nursery (see the advertisement elsewhere herein). He always has an excellent selection of bonsai containers for sale.

### \*Oops and Oh-oh

John Naka's uses the expressions "Oops" and "Oh-oh", the former when in bonsai the damage is not irreversible, such as bending a branch and hearing it snap, -the later when one cuts off a branch and wishes he hadn't. The PBA Newsletter for May almost became an "Oh-oh". However, my wife, Jane, patiently spent three hours whiting-out the error on page 5 "FIFTH YEAR" and on top of page 6, while I rewrote "FIFTH YEAR" in the correct place on 400 copies.

J. F. Koetsch

## Triton College Bonsai Club

The Triton College Bonsai Club and Triton College, 2000 5th Avenue, River Grove, Illinois 60171 sponsored TREES '81 on May 23rd and 24th. Unfortunately the information did not reach the editor due to their announcement following a circuitous route *~~~~~* - from the Arboretum to PBA to the editor. (The best way to get info to the members is to send it to J. Koetsch at the address on the back of the Newsletter.)

Bonsai masters Toshio Saburomaru and Keith Scott were featured. Here's hoping we stay in better contact in the future.

## PBA ANNUAL MEETING

The 1981 PBA Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, April 25th, at the U. S. National Arboretum after the close of the PBA Annual Show on that date. Results of the meeting included:

### \*Election of PBA Officers:

President - Arschel Morrell  
First Vice President - Bill Merritt  
Educational Vice President - Fred Mies  
Secretary - Bob Sitnick  
Treasurer - Godfrey Trammell

Although Dave Dambowic was listed as running, he requested that his name be removed from the ballot. Bill Merritt volunteered to run for the office.

\*The PBA Treasury is solvent, and it was voted to provide \$100.00 to each of the PBA member clubs.

\*The resolution to change the PBA By-Laws to read that the individual dues will be determined by the PBA Board and not fixed, as it was, was passed. The formal wording will appear in the latest version of the PBA Constitution and By-Laws which will be distributed to the member clubs.

\*The resolution to change the PBA By-Laws to permit members to vote without being physically present at the PBA Annual Meeting was tabled. The PBA Board will re-examine all the aspects associated with implementing such a procedure.

\*The subject of providing a Japanese stone lantern to the U. S. National Bonsai Collection for the Japanese garden was discussed. Present plans are to determine what the costs of such items will be.

\*A report concerning the organizing of the PBA Fall Symposium was presented by Bob Sitwick and Felix Langklin. Felix has provided more details in this Newsletter. It looks like the symposium is going to be a humdinger and inexpensive at that. MAKE YOUR PLANS TO BE THERE!!!

## Dues Are OVERDUE !!

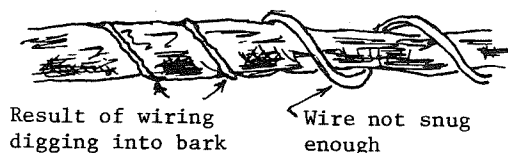
This is the last issue that PBA members will receive unless they have paid the 1981 dues. Make certain that your club secretary has you listed as paid-up and that it gets to Molly Hersh, Jo Finneyfrock, 102 Devon Court, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 589-3725, by June 15th.



## Two Hints from Dorothy Miller

\*When you finish using terra-green for mixing your soil and potting, be certain that you cover it up. Otherwise some cat will mistake it for kitty-litter and leave its calling card.

\*Wire Cuts: Be diligent in examining the wiring on your trees. (At least one at the PBA Annual Show had signs of the wire being swallowed up by the bark.) As soon as the bark covers any part of the wire, remove the wire. In this illustration, the wiring runs from too snug to too loose. The wire may be cutting into the bark in specific places



Result of wiring digging into bark

Wire not snug enough

Dorothy Miller

## FLORAFEST II and the PBA Annual Show

Through the efforts of many of PBA members and with Dave Dambowic (PBA First Vice President) in charge, FLORAFEST II and the PBA Annual Show were outstanding successes. Sincere votes of thanks and appreciation are extended to all who had a hand in bringing the events to fruition. Special thanks to the extra efforts on the parts of Bill Merritt and Chuck Bird for providing the majority of trees at FLORAFEST.

## LOST!

Paul T. Gilbert reported that he is still trying to locate the whereabouts of a Green Tool Box. This was left at last year's April 1980 PBA Annual Show at the Arboretum. The tool box was 6 x 6 x 14 inches with a white ideograph 盆栽. The contents included a standard pruner and bud scissors. His business address is Court House, 3725 Park Avenue, Ellicott City, Maryland, 21043, telephone: work (301) 992-2126 or home (301) 444-8533.

## SHOEN BONSAI AND JAPANESE GARDEN

Bonsai pots  
tools  
trees  
raffia

terra green  
granite grit



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10:00 - 4:00  
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### JIU-SAN BONSAI

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NO MAIL ORDER

Our new location — Open 7 days/week

1243 Melville Rd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735

Tel. (516) 293-9246

## CLUB CALENDAR

- June 13  
Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Annual Spring workshop at John Simpson's home, 3617 Ridgeway Terrace, Falls Church, Virginia, (703) 256-4615. Rain date is June 20th. Maps will be mailed to NOVABONSOC members,- other PBA members contact John for directions. Bring trees to work on or for critiques. Assistance will be provided to all concerning any areas of bonsai from A to Z. Bring trees or a tree and your lunch. Refreshments will be provided. For those interested and conditions permitting, a boat-ride on Lake Barcroft may be available in the afternoon.  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY (703) 521-0674
- June 16  
Tuesday 7:30 p.m. St. Margaret's Church Workshop and discussion of summer care. Some of our most experienced club members will be back to help us with this last spring workshop. Call Jackie, 263-3995 if any problems finding supplies to bring. Please bring or send dues to : John Colgan, 7851 Shellye Drive, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061. (Checks payable to Annapolis Bonsai Club - \$13 single membership, \$2 additional for family. ANNAPOLIS
- June 18  
Thursday 7:30 p.m. Gatehouse, Audubon Society, 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, Md. Asalea Workshop. Bring finished or in-training bonsai to a workshop devoted to care, style and repotting of azaleas. Or bring raw nursery material and join us. Special assistance to new members inexperienced in styling. Raffle. BROOKSIDE
- June 21  
Sunday 2:00 p.m. National Arboretum. Styling workshop. Please bring the trees that were styled in our April and May meetings. Also bring other material that you want to work on. WASHINGTON
- June 28  
Sunday 2:00 PM Clearwater Nature Center. Slide show on mame bonsai obtained on loan from BCI. This will be followed by a wiring lecture and demonstration. KIYOMIZU (301) 299-8660.

NO REPORT FROM: Baltimore

If you plan to attend a meeting other than your parent club's meeting, it is recommended to telephone the number listed above to confirm the arrangements. Because of any of a number of reasons the schedule above can be changed. To be further on the safe side you can telephone as early as possible to let the club know that you expect to attend and then request that you be advised of any schedule changes.

## pba symposium

### PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR FALL SYMPOSIUM

Thanks to the excellent groundwork laid by last year's chairman, Bruce Ballantyne, the planning committee is off to a fast start in preparing for this fall's Seventh Annual PBA Symposium. Having become a well-known event in the bonsai world, early detailed planning is being done to assure that the high expectations surrounding our Symposium will be more than satisfied.

This year's Symposium will be held during the weekend of October 24 and 25 at the new Marriott Hotel in Bethesda, Maryland. The focus will be on maples, with emphasis on trident maples. The planning committee is contacting a number of talented bonsaiists and horticulturists from all around the country to be our speakers. In addition to interesting slide lectures, we expect to have several exciting demonstrations on the "root-over-rock" technique and other approaches to styling trident maples.

Given the popularity of the bazaar area, the committee is working hard to bring together a fine group of commercial vendors. Many PBA members find the bazaar to be the best and most convenient place to shop for their bonsai needs, and the committee hopes not only to bring back the vendors who have been well-received in the past but also to enable you to meet new vendors of high quality plant materials and equipment. We think you will be pleasantly surprised by what you will find available.

The banquet last year was such a great success that special efforts are being made to assure that this year's banquet is just as good if not better. So, for this Saturday night affair, you will be able to look forward to "good drink, food and fellowship."

With the increasing interest in styling workshops, we are trying to provide several workshops on Sunday afternoon. For one of these workshops, we have already acquired a number of large-trunked trident maples, which are now being protected in PBA's custody until the time of the Symposium in order to assure their good health. Each workshop, in order to provide the participants with adequate individual instruction, will be limited to 15 people, so sign up early for one of these when the registration material is mailed to you.

Mark your calendar now for October 24 and 25!