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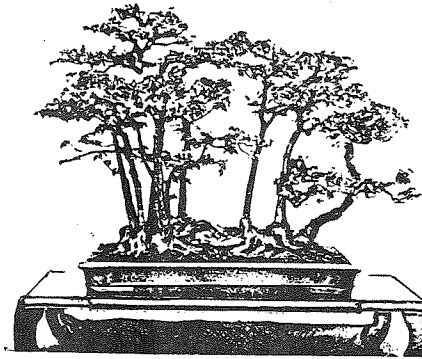
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Root-Over-Rock Group Planting

most hearty varieties among the maples. This is evidenced in that a person is

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KAEDE (TRIDENT MAPLE) Part II

by Takenma Takenai

Translated by Jules Koetsch

The three notches of the leaves of the kaede (trident maple) are a pleasing feature and distinguish it from the palmate leaves of other maples. A kaede with medium sized leaves can be used to create a top quality bonsai. The leaves of the kaede range in size depending in part on the climate. The weather in the Kobe-Osaka area of Japan is most suitable for simulating growth of the medium sized leaves. A leaf with a diameter of 3 or more centimeters (1-1/8 inches) is a large sized leaf; a leaf of the order of 2 centimeters (7/8 inch) is a medium sized leaf; and leaves on the order of about one centimeter (1/2 inch) are considered to be small sized. The large sized leaf, being large, is not attractive. The mid-sized leaf is suitable for average sized bonsai, and the small leaves for small bonsai.

TREE APPEAL AND SHAPE

First of all, kaede is numero uno (ichiban) in appeal and ranks as one of the

unrestricted in the use of root grafting and bud grafting to enhance the kaede. The kaede imports a feeling of age and beauty, it has leaves that taper-off in size toward the top coupled with a robust appearance. The crimson leaves, even in the first year, can be a pleasing sight.

The tree styles possible with a kaede are essentially unlimited for this strong appearing tree, but briefly the styles are straight trunk, double trunk, group planting, root-over-rock, natural shape as collected material, and so forth. Hence, those persons whose preference is for a root-over-rock group planting as a bonsai, can refer to the following instructions.

FROM PROPAGATION UNTIL THE 3RD YEAR

The method for obtaining a strong kaede that will live a long time, is not to push its growth as a seedling. Moreover, a tree from the garden could possibly be used, but to obtain a kaede with the attributes of medium sized leaves and a rough bark, the kaede should be propagated from seed.

The propagation of the seeds begins with the placement of the seeds in moist soil inside a plastic bag which is sealed shut using string or a rubber band. This is done in November. The bag is kept in a dark, cold (refrigerator if possible) place until March. During the period from March 1st through 20th, place the seeds in a pan of water. Discard those which do not sink to the bottom after being in the water a whole day and night. Plant the seeds one centimeter (slightly less than 1/2 inch) under the soil and spaced 3 centimeters (about 1 1/4 inches) apart in a box with drainage holes. The box should contain soil to a depth of 10 centimeters (about 4 inches). The bottom of the box should have a thin layer of red clay pellets (about 3/8 inches in size) to facilitate drainage. The soil mix consists of 7 parts "red ball" soil and 3 parts sand. Select a sunny place where there will be very light winds so that the trees will grow symmetrically. During the Spring, water once-a-day, twice to three times a day in the Summer. Also in the beginning of Summer, apply a weak solution of liquid fertilizer.

When Autumn arrives, water once per day. Apply liquid fertilizer once before the first ten days of November. Around the 10th of November, winterize the plants and protect them against frost and snow by mounding them with soil. When the Spring of the second year arrives, the seedling will be about 15 to 30 centimeters (about 6 to 12 inches) tall and filling out in the trunk. Continue to do what was done in the first year. Do not replant the saplings, leave them in the box or pot then were started in the first year. In the beginning of the third, the seedlings will have grown to 60 centimeters (24 inches) in height.

PRUNING & TRANSPLANTING METHODS

When the seedlings begin to show signs of sprouting in the Spring, immediately remove them from Winter storage and begin the pruning operation. The trees will be about 60 centimeters (24 inches) high and have many branches. The illustration indicates how the branches should be removed to retain the symmetry of the tree's shape. Open up the branch structure so that the leaves can flutter when they have spouted. In addition, try and style each tree so that the branches have alternate locations where they emerge from the trunk. Also, remove the branch growth which occurred during the second and third year, as shown in the illustration, leaving room for the leaves to flutter about. The framed sketches indicate the choices one might have in selecting and establishing a tree's shape.

When transplanting the tree, the roots are pruned. The trees for the group planting are selected along with the stone and the proper sized pot. The illustrations indicate the steps in root pruning and planting the root-over-rock arrangement. At this time one must design the arrangement of the trees and use an unglazed pot.

In potting the group planting, place the trees on the stone over a thin base of red clay pellets for drainage. Use 3 parts river sand and 7 parts red clay as the potting soil. The stone should be placed so that it is slightly off-center in the pot. Place over the roots lying on the stone a thin coating of a well kneaded mixture of 5 parts sphagnum moss, 3 parts red clay, and 2 parts river sand. (Practice in the USA has been to use well kneaded Bacto peat or the equivalent.) The mixture has been kneaded to a thin, doughlike consistency by the addition of just the right amount of water. When the roots have been covered with a thin layer of the above mix, cover, in turn, the layer with Nanking hemp or linen. (This prevents the mix from washing off during waterings. A good substitute has been found to be cheesecloth.) Cover the hemp with moss to suppress the roots as they pop-through the cheesecloth.

Upon finishing the potting operation, thoroughly water the entire group planting and leave it stabilize for one week. Thereafter, continue the waterings as needed. During the first ten days of April, apply fertilizer for the first time. Use a very small amount of liquid fertilizer and sprinkle this on the planting.

LEAF CLIPPING AND PRUNING REPEATED

After the third year, prune during the first ten days of March and repot during the middle ten days of March. The illustration indicates that the branches should be pruned so that only double forked branches are left from the previous season's growth. Also, clip off all leaves. However, if the tree appears to be lacking in energy, cut away 3 parts of the leaves leaving one part behind as shown in the illustration.

The above steps produce a tree with a close-cropped appearance, but the leaves will come back as thick as ever. Do not attempt any bud grafting until the fourth year when the branches have suitably thickened.

In the Spring of the fourth year when sprouts begin to appear, prune the extended branches as shown on the illustration. When June arrives, if the tree has signs of being healthy, clip the leaves and prune the branches. From the third through to the fifth year, prune and repot in the Spring, as stated above, and repeat the pruning and do the leaf clipping just before the rainy season begins in June. Care should be taken in carefully shaping the branches and trunk.

BRANCH REMOVAL AND FINAL POTTING

During the sixth to the eighth year, prune and remove branches in the Spring when bud activity starts. Remove the branches which you have selected but in so doing, keep in mind the physiology of the planting, i.e., prune so that upper branches do not block out light from lower branches and periodically rotate the group planting so that the sunlight is evenly distributed. Remove unnecessary as well as bad looking branches.

During the 10th through 20th of March of the eighth year, the group planting can be transplanted to its final pot. Use a shallow pot which can be either rectangular or oval in shape. In the beginning of June, leaf clip and prune. Also at this time, do any wiring, if necessary, using paper covered copper wire or bare aluminum wire.

Although a finished tree can be achieved by thinning out through leaf clipping and branch removal, the roots may require modification. This can be done by joining the woody tissues of the roots to that of a seedling of the same variety. The illustration shows the process.

WATER, FERTILIZATION, DISEASE DAMAGE

The directions for watering can be found everywhere in the literature, but a general rule is to water once-a-day in the Spring, two to three times daily in the Summer, and once-a-day in Autumn. Water in Winter to prevent the plant from drying out. Thoroughly water the planting immediately after potting.

The application of fertilizer entails using a weak (1/2 strength) liquid fertilizer once per month beginning in March and ending sometime between November 1st and 10th.

In conclusion, prevent any insect pests from starting any off-spring and examine the trunk of each tree to remove the rice gruel pattern worm if it is present.

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

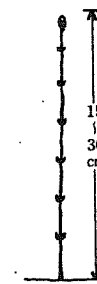
SNIPS and Slips

LAURELS FOR A NEW SOIL MIXTURE

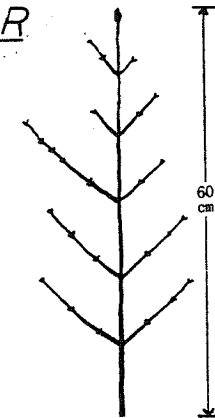
As of this writing the mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) are in full bloom and driving down a wooded road (there are still a few left) is a real treat. Mountain laurel is one of the compensations for living in an area where the temperatures and the humidity are both in the 90s for five months out of the year - a pleasure to see and a treasure to own as a bonsai.

Because they grow on the deciduous forest floor in very loamy soil, one would think they need fairly heavy soil in a bonsai pot. Not so. Fred Mies passed a tip on to me that was handed to him by Cliff Pottberg: pot them in a fast-draining soil. With this in mind I collected one this year which is five inches at the base and all hollowed out - an oldy. My soil mixture consists of regular Terragreen, builders sand, fresh sawdust and potting soil, in about equal proportions. You can't get water to stand in the container for love nor money. The little bit of foliage left on it at collecting time budded out six

2ND AND 3RD YEAR



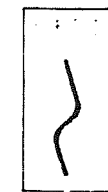
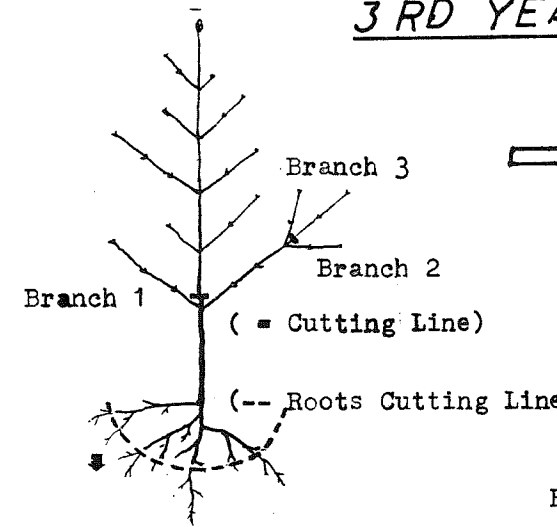
SAPLING IN MARCH OF SECOND YEAR



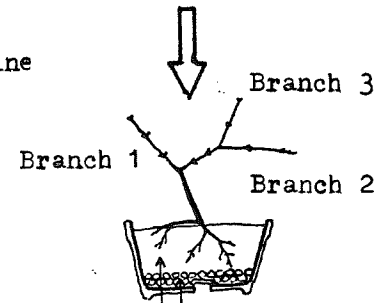
SAPLING IN MARCH OF THIRD YEAR



3RD YEAR



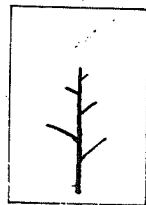
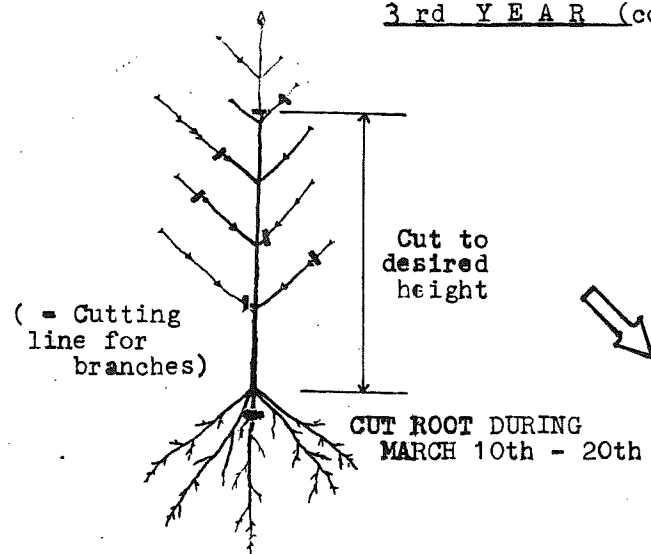
Shape of Trunk of Finished Tree



Potting Soil
(7 Parts red clay
3 Parts river sand)

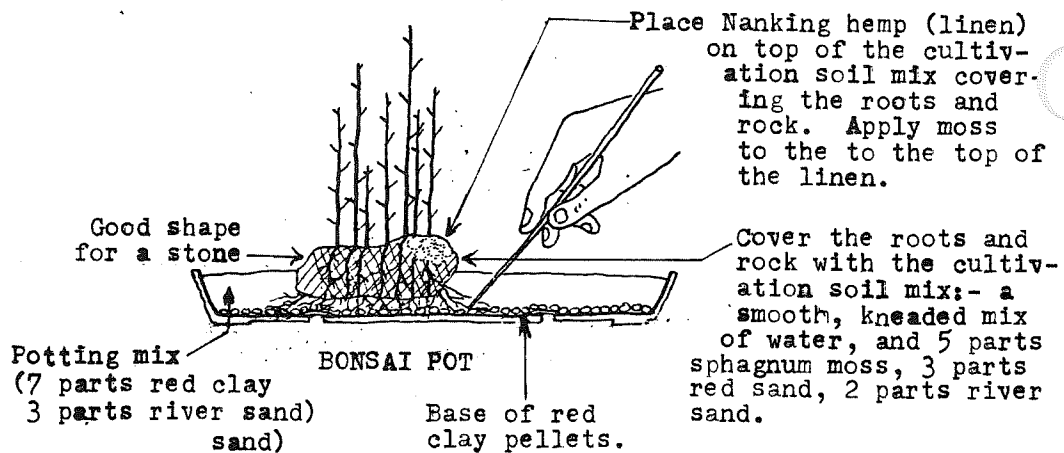
Drainage layer
of large red
clay pellets

3rd YEAR (continued)



Shape of Trunk of Finished Tree

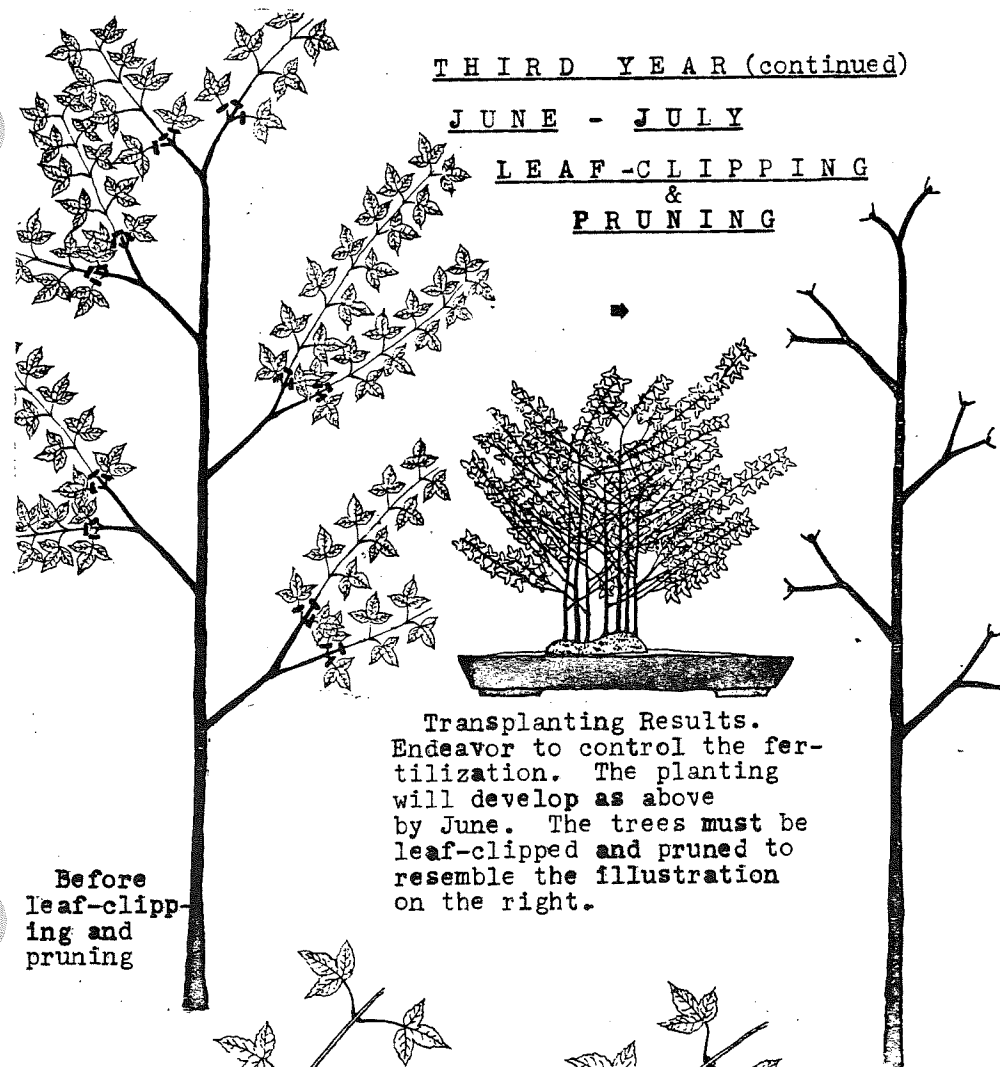
PLACE IN POT MARCH 10th - 20th



THIRD YEAR (continued)

JUNE - JULY

LEAF-CLIPPING & PRUNING



Transplanting Results. Endeavor to control the fertilization. The planting will develop as above by June. The trees must be leaf-clipped and pruned to resemble the illustration on the right.

Before leaf-clipping and pruning

After leaf-clipping and pruning.

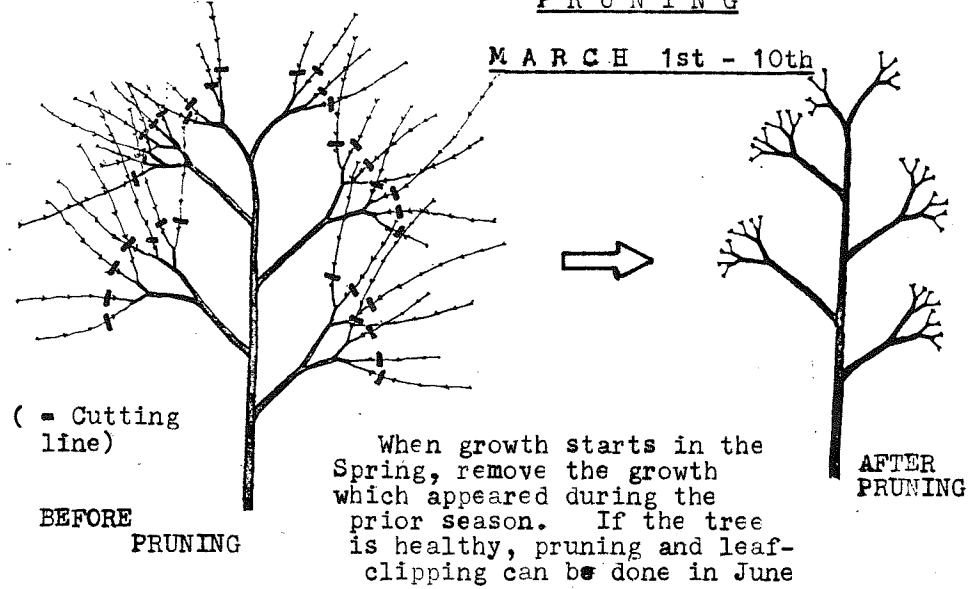
The energy in a healthy tree will permit removal of branch growth from the 1st season and removal of all the leaves.

The lack of energy in a weak tree limits removal to the branch growth from the 1st season and 3 parts of each remaining leaf to let $\frac{1}{4}$ remain.

4 TH YEAR

PRUNING

MARCH 1st - 10th



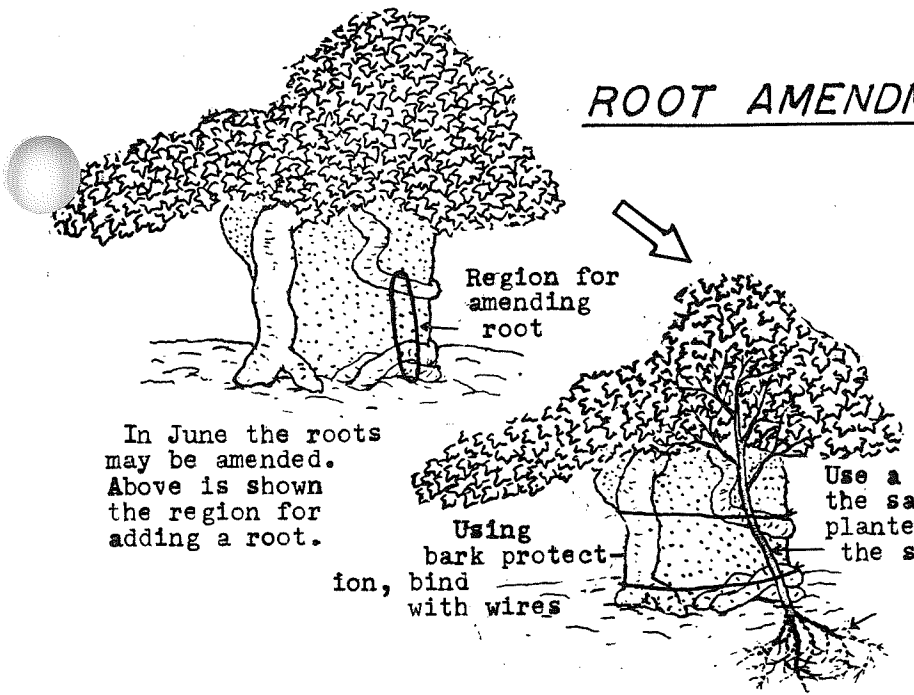
(= Cutting line)

BEFORE PRUNING

AFTER PRUNING

When growth starts in the Spring, remove the growth which appeared during the prior season. If the tree is healthy, pruning and leaf-clipping can be done in June

ROOT AMENDMENT



In June the roots may be amended. Above is shown the region for adding a root.

Use a sapling of the same species planted inside the same pot.

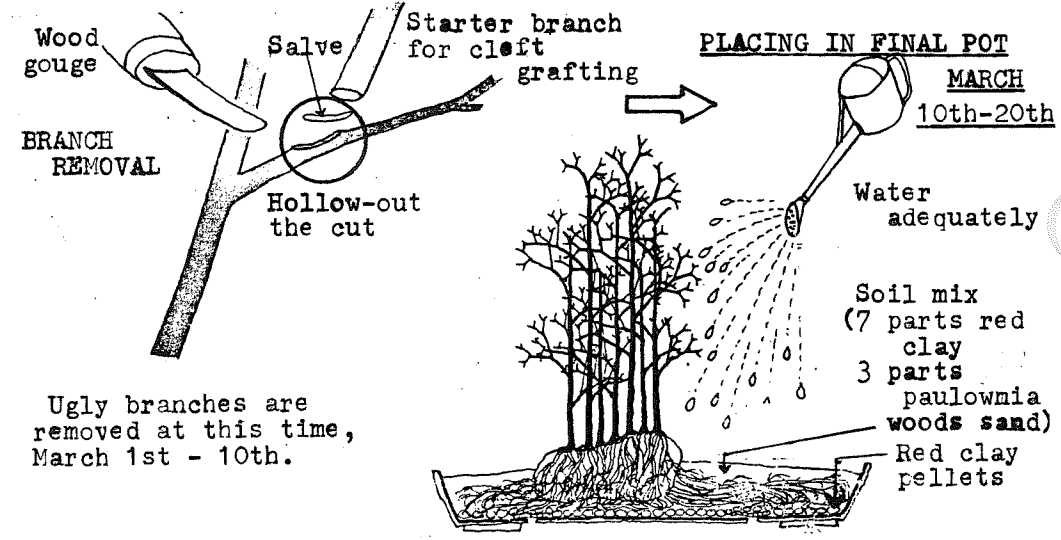
Using bark protection, bind with wires

6 TO 8TH YEAR

8 TH YEAR

PLACING IN FINAL POT

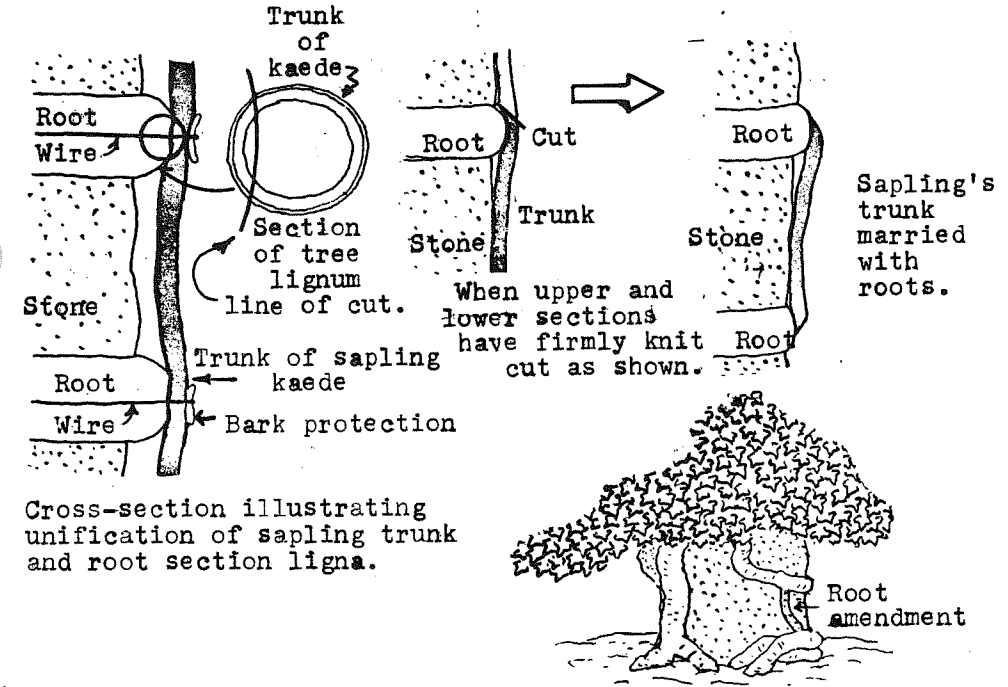
MARCH 10th-20th



Ugly branches are removed at this time, March 1st - 10th.

Water adequately

Soil mix
(7 parts red clay
3 parts paulownia woods sand)
Red clay pellets



Cross-section illustrating unification of sapling trunk and root section ligna.

When upper and lower sections have firmly knit Root cut as shown.

Sapling's trunk married with roots.

Arrange the root-over-rock group planting to appear attractive in the pot, - the location of the planting to be in balance with the pot. Use a good bonsai pot. The pot may have a small amount of design and

KAEDE ROOT*OVER*ROCK
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TIME OF MONTH	YEAR				
	1st	2nd	3rd - 7th	8th	9th
March 1 - 10		Place on outdoors shelf Water once per day Prune			
10 - 20	Seed. Place on outdoors shelf. Water once per day.	Transplant	Remove branches Repot	Prune for styling	
April 10 - 20					
May 1 - 10	Fertilize once.				
June 1 to July 31		Prune Leaf clip			
June 1 - 10		Begin watering twice per day Begin fertilizing once per month			
July August			Wire		
September		Begin watering as needed			
Nov. 1-10		Stop fertilizing			
Dec. 10-20		Protect from frost and snow			

SNIPS AND SLIPS (Continued from page 4)

weeks ago, but now the whole trunk is sprouting adventitious buds. Each and every day I have to rub off dozens of new buds and allow the one I think I want to grow. Having collected mountain laurel before with nowhere near the success as this one, my conclusion is the difference is in the fast-draining soil mixture.

PRECIPITANT PESTS

The experts who know tell those of us less knowledgeable that the Potomac River is still 25% lower than normal. This makes the rash of recent drownings on the river a bit difficult to explain in light of such calm waters usually produced by low water. I suppose the fact that the Kennedy Center hasn't been washed away by flood this year may account for the experts being able to make that statement. Those of us who have slogged through weeks of Civil Service showers, picnic quenchers and lawn mower drenchers have reason to doubt the sanity, or at least the perception, of the experts.

All this is leading nowhere, however, and my point is that all this rain has produced a lush crop of plant pests as well as a lush crop of foliage. Our bonsai will need more careful scrutiny for pests and more frequent application of pesticides as a result of all this moisture. Check under leaves and at the base of twigs on a regular basis and resign yourself to having to get out the bug bane oftener. Trees will have to be fertilized oftener, too, because the hog-drowners we've been having will leach the nutrients out of the soil at a much faster rate than just normal watering will.

SNUFFING OUT CANDLES

Though it's a bit out of season, I'll pass the idea along anyway. Pines are kept within bounds by pinching off the candles, which is the new growth. Supposedly the entire candle can come off and new buds are supposed to form at the base. Having an occasional streak of conservatism I prefer to hedge my bets. Particularly if the tree has been recently repotted I allow the candles to grow out long. This helps promote corresponding root growth and re-establishment of the tree. I then pinch the candles way back but not off, arresting rapid outward growth of the tree. Then, once the new buds do form at the base, I remove the rest of the candle. It matters not that the candle was allowed to get too leggy if you plan to remove it eventually anyway.

SMOTHERHOOD

I personally think one of the most terrifying ways to die would be from lack of air. I plan to go out in a blaze of glory, but not for another half-century or so. My bonsai likely share this sentiment, but are somewhat less vociferous about it. Nevertheless, it is not too difficult to let your trees die of smotherhood, and all it takes is a little bit of ignorance mixed with a dash of neglect. We've all heard the lectures about using a soil mixture that allows for airspaces between

the soil particles, and we've all experimented with various mixtures to achieve this. It goes for naught, however, if we fail to provide the conditions which allow these wonderful little airspaces to do their job.

As soil begins to dry out after watering, the very top layer of the soil tends to become encrusted, hardening into a solid mass. Air is unable to effectively get through this crust and get down to the roots where it's needed and the tree is left gasping for breath. The solution is to take a sharpened chop stick or most any pointed object and break up this crust so your trees can breathe. It doesn't do much good to do this while the soil is still sopping, so if you water in the morning, aerate the soil in the evening, or vice versa. Don't do it just before you water because that doesn't make very much sense.

Another source of smotherhood is moss and weeds. Moss can very easily form an impenetrable barrier for air to the roots. You can overwater your trees trying to keep the moss green or, conversely, the moss can form a barrier so water can't penetrate the soil. Several years ago I decided moss had no place on my bonsai except at showtime, and my trees have been happier since. Weeds won't prevent water and air getting to the tree roots, but they will rob the soil of nutrients intended for the tree and their roots will compete for space in the pot with the tree's roots. Put that pretty little baby's tears or sedum in its own separate pot, or plant it in your yard and let it take over everything and kill your roses or the Japanese maple that shades the patio. Your bonsai should be scrupulously free of other plant life at all times.

EVERYTHING'S ROSEY

My favorite fertilizer has always been a product called "Tree Tone." It was manufactured by the same people who bring us "Bulb Tone" and "Holly Tone," but it was always hard to find and now I can't find it at all. The nutrient balance was 20-20-20, a good all-round fertilizer. However, knowing my one lonely rose bush needed some food, I picked up a bag of "Rose Tone." Having nothing better to do while waiting to pay for it, I read the instructions (I am an insatiable reader). The label says the nutrient balance is 6-6-4. Not too bad. Not as high as the other stuff, but maybe better in the long run. I intend to try Rose Tone on my bonsai as a fertilizer. Has anyone else ever tried it?

PURÉE OF WHAT!?!

Willow leaves! This one's sure to make your friends and loved ones think you've finally made it around the bend.

At a recent club meeting one member (Dorothy Brown) who works at a nursery told us her boss was in New York State recently visiting nurseries and was told there that green willow leaves, puréed in a food processor, was the latest thing in rooting media for cuttings. It was claimed that positive results occurred with species with which the propagators had previously had no luck at all. (Use the steel blade in the processor and add water slowly til the mixture blends smoothly.)

Having, by coincidence, just come into possession of a large(ish) trident maple on which several unsuccessful attempts at air-layering had been tried (with a subsequent result of large "burls" on the trunk) I decided to try to root the trunk at the burl, treating it as a cutting, and hoping that it will form the coveted "turtleback" root system.

A dog is a great asset in a case like this, unless you have a willow tree in your own back yard. Midnight marauding can be covered up with the excuse you're walking your dog and just happen to be waiting for him under the willow trees in the neighborhood playground area. Unless you actually like the dirty and/or contemptuous looks you'll get from unenlightened neighbors and local street urchins, you'll carry out your ingredient collecting activities at night. Darkness will also conceal your plastic bag full of willow leaves and the randomly stripped branches. If you don't own a dog, offer to walk a neighbor's. I did happen to notice my excursion took place under a full moon, which was probably dangerous because that's when all the crazies come out.

At any rate, having not much further information to go by, I mixed my purée de Salix babalonica with vermiculite, planted my oversized cutting in it, devised a plastic covering to keep it moist, and will now hope for the best. Trident maples are damnably hard to kill, so it just might work. Even if it doesn't it was worth a try, and the idea certainly worth passing on.

Mary Holmes

TAMAHİ

Wherever one sees bonsai in Japanese nurseries or in their private collections, one is likely to note brown balls resting on the surfaces of the soil in the pots. These fertilizer dumplings are more than likely contain one of the oft-used fertilizer for bonsai in Japan which is made from rape seed. Shoen Bonsai has just received a shipment of Tamahi which has been imported from Japan. No rape seed fertilizer equivalent is made in the U.S.A. If you want to keep up with the Japanese experts, here's your chance.

According to J. Y. Haga's translation of the Japanese document accompanying the Tamahi, the tamahi now for sale is for evergreen and deciduous trees. Tamahi is the residue of the rape seed after the oil is squeezed out. 20% of bonemeal is then added to the rape seed residue (ABURAKASU) and is fermented in the natural way. Then the fermented mixture is dried in the sun for more than a week. The mixture is further sterilized by hot air.

No fermenting bacteria, adhesive agents, or hardening agents, which may be harmful to the trees, is added.

(Note: the tamahi no for sale at Shoen Bonsai is for evergreen and deciduous trees, a different type is used for flowering trees)

CLUB CALENDAR

July 11
Saturday 10:00 AM at the Gulf Branch Nature Center. Bob Sitnick will present the first showing anywhere of slides covering John Nakas China and Japan 1981 Bonsai Tour. The slide show will depict bonsai in Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Suzhou along with some interesting aspects of Chinese gardens. The latter will include some pictures from the Master of Nets garden in Suzhou which was duplicated and just recently opened to the public in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. Also included will be shots of Mr. Wu Yee-sun's famous collection in Hong Kong as well as nurseries in Japan.

The slide show will be followed by a workshop. Bring trees to groom during July. Also bring problem trees.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY (703) 521-0674

July 16
Thursday 7:30 PM Styling Critique and Workshop. Audubon Society Headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD. We have all admired the magnificent trees displayed by Richard Meszler at various PBA shows. We are indeed fortunate to have Richard as our guest art critic for this month's styling workshop. Bring your trees, pruning shears, wire and your courage - and you should leave with more refined bonsai. If you choose to leave your trees at a safe distance, then come, listen, and participate in the critique. Raffle. BROOKSIDE (301) 299-6194

July 19
Sunday 2:00 PM and 3:15 PM at Cylburn Mansion. The workshop will be at 2:00 PM and there will be a slide presentation at 3:15 PM with taped narrative titled "A Vist to Japan". The slides depict commercial Japanese bonsai nurseries, Japanese gardens and Japanese Bonsai Experts. A good show for those of us who may never get the chance to go to Japan. BALTIMORE (301) 922-9310

July 21
Tuesday 7:30 PM Visit Mary Holmes' home and see her lovely bonsai collection. In addition, Fred Mies, from the Brookside Club, will join us and show slides of his trip to Japan. Mary's address is: 1676 Walleye Dr., Crofton, MD. For detailed directions and R.S.V.P. call (301) 721-1309. ANNAPOLIS (301) 263-3995

July 26
Sunday 2:00 PM Clearwater Nature Center. Discussion on tools. Bring trees for critique. KIYOMIZU (301) 423-8230

WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB will not meet in July and August.
WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676

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.

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