

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
% U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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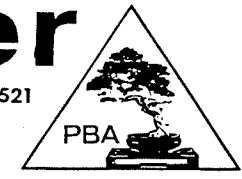
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POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION
Newsletter

VOL 16, NO 6, JUNE 1986

ISSN 0160-9521



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DUES ARE DUE!!!

PAY YOUR LOCAL CLUB TREASURER

OTHERWISE THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE

IBC '86 JULY 9-23

SEE PAGE 19

PBA MEMBERS WHO WISH TO PROVIDE A FEW HOURS OF HELP
(GUIDES, MONITORS, WORKSHOP ASSISTANTS, ETCETERA)
TELEPHONE MOLLY HERSH (301) 589-3725

- June 7: **BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP**
Saturday National Arboretum 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- June 14: **NORTHERN VIRGINIA** (&03) 644-4822: Home of John Simpson, 3617 Ridgeway
Saturday Terrace, Lake Barcroft, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - BRING LUNCH
liquid refreshments will be served. Beginners who attended June 7
Beginners' Workshop cited above bring trees to work on. Other members -
bring trees - this will be an outdoor workshop. Also bring a cardtable and chair
if you can plus tools, soil, wire, etc. In case of rain telephone (703) 256-4615.



The Board of Directors
Advisory Committee
and
Members of the National Committee
of
The National Bonsai
Foundation Inc.

cordially invite you to attend
A Gala Celebration
on July 8, 1986 at

The U. S. National Arboretum
Washington, D. C.

of
The Tenth Anniversary
of

The Gift of the
Japanese Bonsai Collection

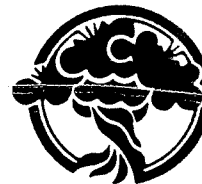
to
The American People

Black Tie
6:30 p. m.
\$150 per Person
(partially tax deductible)

Please request a personal invitation by writing to Mrs. Felix B.
Laughlin, Chairman 1986, N.B.F. Gala, 1411 33rd Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20007. Dresser instructions are limited.

THE NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION INC.

3501 New York Ave., N.E.,
Washington, DC 20002



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GALA BONSAI CELEBRATION
AT NATIONAL ARBORETUM - JULY 8, 1986

On the evening of July 8, 1986, under the patronage of His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan and Mrs. Matsunaga, the National Bonsai Foundation, Inc. will host a black-tie Gala on the grounds of the United States National Arboretum. The purpose of this Gala is to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the gift by the Japanese government of the Bonsai Collection presently on display at the Arboretum, and to raise funds for an expansion of the Bonsai Complex.

This will be a most exciting evening. Many of the Japanese bonsai masters who donated the trees in the Collection will be our honored guests, seeing their trees for the first time since they were shipped from Japan ten years ago. The audience will also include other dignitaries and special guests from around the world.

The air will be filled with the music of Koto players, and the scent of spectacular Ikebana arrangements prepared by the internationally famous Ohara Master, Mr. Mutsuo Tomita. There will be a memorable moonlit viewing of the Bonsai Collection. Silent auction items will include an unusually fine bonsai from the collection of Mrs. Muriel Leeds, an exquisite Hanae Mori gown, and round trip airline tickets to Japan.

The cost of the tickets to the Gala is \$150 per person, most of which is tax deductible. If you would like to receive an invitation to the Gala, please write to Mrs. Felix B. Laughlin, 1411 33rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

June 21: WASHINGTON (202) 583-2676: National Arboretum at 2:00 p.m. Beginners Saturday who attended June 7th Beginners' Workshop bring trees. Potting workshop: soil will be available for nominal fee.

June 22: BALTIMORE (301) 669-1487: Site to be announced, 1:00 p.m. OUTDOOR Sunday WORKSHOP, bring your trees to work on and your lunch, BBC will provide the drinks. Come when you please and work on what you please, and leave when you please.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret to announce the death of Robert P. Laureno who served as Treasurer of the Bowie Bonsai Club. In spite of his ill-health, he never ceased to be ever cheerful and willing to help others. P.B.A will miss him.

CHINESE ELM ROUNDUP

Chinese elm had to be a last minute replacement for American hornbeams as a material for one of the IBC '86 Workshops. Hence, especially for those who will be taking the workshop and those who have or will want to try Chinese elm as a bonsai material, it seemed appropriate at this time to cover the development and care of this excellent bonsai material. Chinese elm (*Nire-geyaki*, or *Ulmus parvifolia*) is a native to China, Korea, and Japan, grows to 50 feet with leaves only 1 to 2 inches long, and is capable of wintering outdoors as far North as Zone 5 according to Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia. As a bonsai, the leaves of the Chinese elm remain small, never growing over 5/8 inches so that they remain in excellent proportion to the size of your bonsai. The pH for elm is listed as between 6.0 and 8.0 but I would tend to keep the pH on the slightly acid side of pH 7.0 and maybe down to 6.0. In the Yoshimura/Halford book, it is recommended that the Chinese elm when outdoors should be placed in full sun.

"INDOOR BONSAI" by Paul Lesniewicz covers Chinese elm as a material suitable for indoor bonsai and recommends putting it in a sunny window during the growing months. The accompanying table CHINESE ELM SCHEDULE OF CARE for FIVE CLIMATE ZONES is from the Japanese text and lists Chinese elm as suitable bonsai material as far North as the snowy regions of Hokkaido. The table also offers some interesting observations as to what Japanese bonsai masters living in various climate zones do to maintain their Chinese elms.

Nagasaki is somewhat sub-tropical in its climate and one finds that no provisions are made on the Table to take the bonsai indoors during the Winter MONTHS. Osaka winters are not as mild as those in Nagasaki but milder than Tokyo winters. However, once you cross the Japanese Alps and get to Niigata or go further north from Tokyo towards the island of Hokkaido, winters become more severe. In Sapporo, Hokkaido, Chinese elms do not come out of winter storage until the last part of April. The schedule on the Table also shows how often some Japanese bonsai masters recommend using insecticides. Spider mites, those common pests, can also plague Chinese elm. According to Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia, Chinese elm is susceptible to Dutch elm disease. To combat Dutch elm disease, visible as a white or brown clustering of 0.1 to 0.2 inch insects on branches or trunks, the following pesticides can be used: Cygon, Malathion, Orthene, Sevin, Spectracide, and in the winter months - Dormant oil. Gypsy moths attack elms, - use Bomide, Orthene or Sevin. Lastly, Woolly Apple Aphids can attack elms in the Spring and are evident by a white wax on twigs, holes in leaves and buds, and leaves curling in groups. Use Cygon, Derol, Diazinin, Malathion, Orthene or Spectracide.

Wiring operations shown on the Table indicate that the scheduling of those are a matter of personal preference limited only by removing the wire when any begins to bite into the bark.

The variation in the pruning descriptors are interesting as well as the times for doing them. During the growing season, pruning operations are best detailed in the article which appeared in the June 1982 PBA Newsletter and is repeated herewith in its entirety. Apologies are in order to the subscribers who already have the article

CHINESE ELM
SCHEDULE OF CARE
FIVE CLIMATE ZONES

See page 9 for
key to symbols

The following schedules were taken from the Japanese text - "ILLUSTRATED BONSAI CARE CALENDAR DIVIDED BY REGIONS WITH TASKS ARRANGED BY THE MONTHS", published by Shousen Modan. The schedules are given for five climatic regions of the three main islands of Japan, - Kyushu, Honshu and Hokkaido. The warmest region includes Nagasaki in Kyushu, the next coolest region includes Osaka, then Tokyo, Niigata, and finally to the coldest region in Hokkaido which includes Sapporo. A check of average monthly high and low temperatures do not show significant differences for the first three cities but there are significant differences between the average monthly temperatures in those three cities and Niigata and Sapporo.

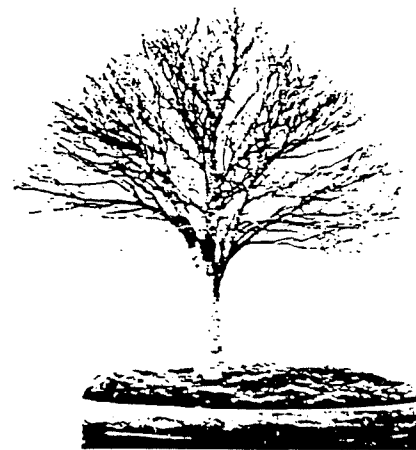
Month/Days	Nagasaki	Osaka	Tokyo	Niigata	Sapporo
Jan 1 - 10			Wi		
11 - 20	I		I		
21 - 31					
Feb 1 - 10					
11 - 20					
21 - 28/29					
Mar 1 - 10	F	RG	RG,R,B	Wi	
11 - 20	R, CR	R, CR		RG, I	
21 - 31	I				
Apr 1 - 10	F	P Wi	F	R	
11 - 20	RW	F	PS RW	B, L, CR	CR
21 - 30	I	I		F	RG, R
May 1 - 10	F	PS RW	F	P**	I
11 - 20	I RL*	F	P,PS	I	F
21 - 31		I		F	
Jun 1 - 10	CL	PS Wi	B Wi	RW	F PS B
11 - 20	B	F	P,PS		
21 - 30		I		I	
Jul 1 - 10	I	PS RW	F RW		F, I
11 - 20	F		P,PS		PS, RU
21 - 31	Wi	F, I			
Aug 1 - 10		F		I	F RW
11 - 20		I	P,PS	PS**	PS, RU
21 - 31	I		F	F	
Sep 1 - 10	F	PS			F, I
11 - 20		F, I	F		PS, RL, RU
21 - 30	Wi				E
Oct 1 - 10	F, I	F	RL	RL	AL, FC, RU, RW
11 - 20	AL, FC	I			
21 - 31		AL, EC	AL, FC	F, AL, FC	RF
Nov 1 - 10		PS	RU		G, I
11 - 20		I			
21 - 30					
Dec 1 - 10		G	I		
11 - 20			G Wi	G	
21 - 31					

CHINESE ELM

by Takeyama Ko

Translated by Jules Koetsch

The following article has been translated from "Directions for the Preparation of Miscellaneous Trees with Illustrated Explanatory Notes".



Keyaki or Chinese elm, in the Spring it spouts growth, in the Summer there are the new leaves, in the Fall the leaves turn crimson, in the Winter the leaves are gone and there is the branching, all reminiscent of one's own fields of military glory. The growth on a Chinese elm or Keyaki is rapid and is an example of delicate branch structure.

Keyaki has a yatsubusa variety (very small leaves) with a rough, peeling bark. The newly formed sprouts on the small branches have stems of red. Another variety of excellent beauty has bluish sprouts. Either of the two varieties can be used for bonsai. One should preferably select a seedling tree with leaves that are small, and a nicely textured trunk, one which has branches so that the tree is upright in shape. Also the branches should be

arranged in the form of an unfolded fan so that the tree can be styled into a broom shape.

PROPAGATION METHOD AND FIRST YEAR

Keyaki can be propagated from seed, purchased (one about three years old) or collected in the mountains. In order to unify the shape and control the direction of the growth, it is best to concentrate one's efforts in growing from seed.

First of all, the seeds should be collected or possibly purchased in the Fall, placed into a plastic bag along with moist soil, and stored in a cool, dark place. Remove the seeds between March 20 and April 10. The timeframe for sowing the seeds can coincide with the Spring Equinoctial week (Vernal Equinox) and the sprouts will slowly emerge.

Having sown the seeds in rows, apply tap water and place them in a sunny place, and after April 20th, sprouts will emerge. After the sprouts have emerged, once every day, water until it flows out of the bottom of the box. Sprinkle rape seed fertilizer powder between the rows of seedlings in a line parallel to the rows. Thereafter, the fertilizer is sprinkled once per month and the watering is continued on a daily basis.

When Summer has arrived, much of the branch growth has been in the interior, and a satisfactory, healthy arrangement should be attained by pruning in accordance with the illustration. In order not to risk destroying the tree shape, and not to deprive the healthy branches of nourishment, and also to assist the desirable branches in growing more rapidly, the internal branches should be pruned.

The pruning of the long branches should be done so that a broom style is achieved. The question is what is the visible difference between the shape of the tree growing naturally and the desired broom style.

The key to the above problem is to understand what branches are to remain. The ideal broom style into which one wishes to develop the finished tree, is one wherein the lower 1/3 of the height of the tree is free of branches. For example, if the ultimate tree height of the bonsai is to be 30 cm (12 inches), the selected branches should start 10 cm (4 inches) from the surface of the roots. The basis of the broom shape lies in the makeup of the branch segments. Again and again, keep in mind that no more than two branch segments are to emanate from a fork.

Summer having passed and Autumn having arrived, fertilize for the last time in September, but continue to water adequately. In November, the seedling has reached a height of about 20 cm (8 inches). Between November 20th and 30th, place the tree indoors for Winter protection.

TRANSPLANTING AND SECOND YEAR

In the second year, between March 20th and 31st, first prepare the pot and other items for the first transplanting of the sapling tree. In the second year, pay attention to which leaves should be pruned. On a seedling tree with few leaves, branch segments will turn gray as the tree ages. Care should be exercised in not permitting branch segments to cross, the texture of the trunk will turn more beautiful, and in years to come, sprouts need only be plucked, and occasionally cut to continue to retain a broom style that is appreciated.

As for now, skillfully transplant the sapling tree and then water sufficiently one time using tap water. Every month, beginning in April, apply one rape seed fertilizer ball. The operations continue once Summer has arrived.

Pruning: Pruning is a relatively normal, simple operation during the second year. The illustrations show the pruning techniques. In general, branches of about 10 cm (4 inches) in length are cut back so that three segments (leaves) remain. More often than not, branches which have been cut back to one segment (1 leaf) quickly die, while those cut back to 2 to 3 segments survive. Having cut branches about 10 cm in length down to two to three segments, retrace your steps but do not cut any branches back to one segment. Repeat the pruning from June 1st to 10th through September 1st through 10th while striving to achieve the basic broom style. Quickly remove any small, undesirable branches at the same time that the leaves are clipped.

Leaf Clipping: Leaf clipping takes place during the second year at the same time and on the branches that are pruned (see illustrations). This leaf clipping is equally important as is the pruning in order to rapidly achieve a finished shape as the tree ages. Leaf clipping is done over periods of 10 days being careful to also remove sprouts of small branches on the branches being leaf clipped.

The above pruning and leaf clipping of healthy, long branches, during this time period, suppresses the energy in the tree which otherwise would be expended in not only developing longer, weaker branches and bigger leaves, but an equilibrium must be maintained so that the balance of the tree is not destroyed.

THIRD YEAR OPERATIONS

During the third year, the same operations are done in the same time periods as cited for the second year, but with the addition of wiring.

Wiring is done during June-July using paper wrapped copper wire which has the strength to correct, by bending, any and all the branches to the broom style, twin fork arrangement. Permit the wire to remain in place for about 20 days.

Apply loops of hemp string, as in the second year, in April and let them remain in place until September 20th to 30th. By applying the string, no injuries will occur to the branches as the loops maintain the narrow spacings in the forks of the branches. Also as between the first and second year, to quickly narrow the spaces between forked branches, the branches can be wrapped into a bundle using hemp string once all the leaves have fallen in the Fall-Winter time frame.

PLACING IN A BONSAI DISPLAY POT

During the fourth year in the week of Spring Equinoctial (Vernal Equinox), the next order of work is to put the tree in a bonsai display pot. Select either an elliptical or rectangular shaped pot, but one that is shallow. After potting, continue the same routines of sprout plucking, sprout pruning, and leaf clipping during the time periods specified for the second year.

As in the second year, pruning and sprout plucking are continued at the same times. In the Spring, until the plum season begins, pluck segments with one to two leaves. Too often longer growth than one to two leaves is plucked and the remaining branches are too fat or clumsy and out of place. Then the essentially delicate look of the Keyaki will be lost. Continually pluck the short segments and the energy of the branch to grow will be curtailed. Where thin branches begin to grow, pluck them when the growth has extended to 2 to 3 segments. Always pluck so that only a two branched fork remains. Continue the plucking until Autumn.

KEY TO SYMBOLS

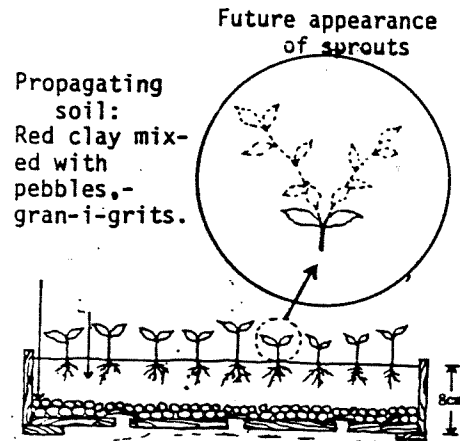
on page 6

- AL,FC - Appreciate Fall coloring
- B - Obtain tree
- CL - Clip leaves (see drawings)
- CR - Cover roots
- F - Fertilize
- G - Put under Winter protection
- I - Apply insecticide
- P - Prune
- PS - Prune sprouts
- R - Repot
- RG - Remove from Winter protection
- RL - Cut to shorter branches
- RU - Remove unwanted branches
- RW - Remove wire
- Wi - Wire
- * - Continue until October
- ** - As required
- - Underlines indicate important tasks that must be done when listed.

CHINESE ELM

FIRST YEAR

SPROUTS EMERGE _ April 20



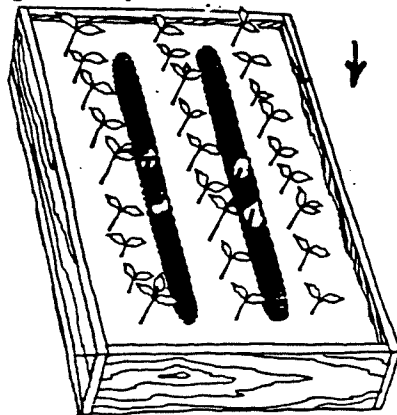
Propagating soil:
Red clay mixed with pebbles, gran-i-grits.

Future appearance of sprouts

Seedling Box

Red clay pellets drainage layer

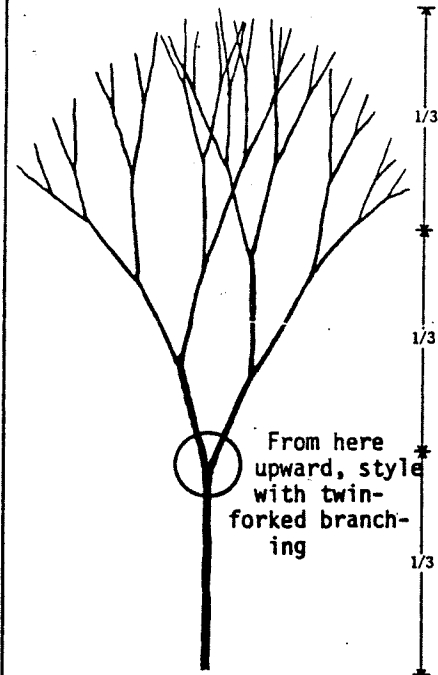
March 20 - 31: results of sowing seeds in rows with adequate, daily watering as a necessity. Sprouts emerge on or about March 20.



Rape seed oil fertilizer dust.

APPLY FERTILIZER May 10 - 20 Dust with a thin layer of rape seed oil fertilizer between the rows of seedlings. Apply fertilizer once per month through September.

POINTERS TO REMEMBER IN PREPARATORY SHAPING OF TOP OF TREE

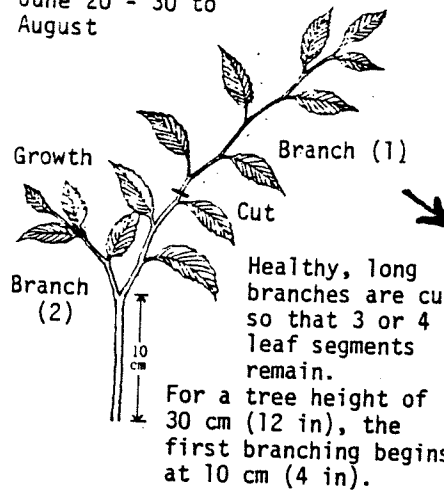


Broom Style { Shape so that branches fork in pairs

FIRST YEAR (Continued)

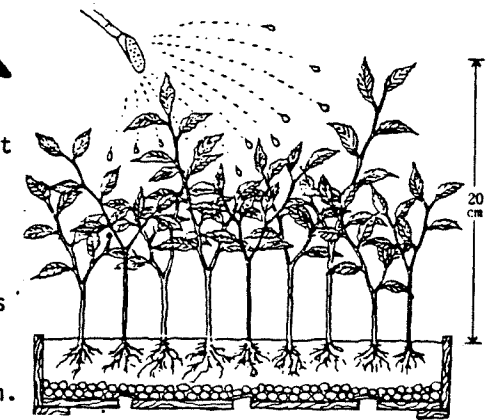
CUT LONG BRANCHES

June 20 - 30 to August



Cut long branches of early growth so that 3 to 4 leaf segments remain. Do not cut the secondary branches emanating from the twin fork. Maintain the twin fork pattern as growth occurs during this season.

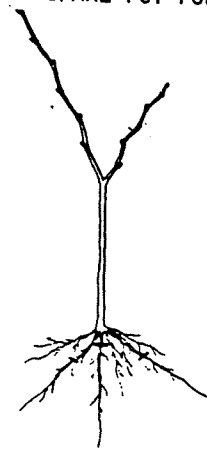
SITUATION IN NOVEMBER



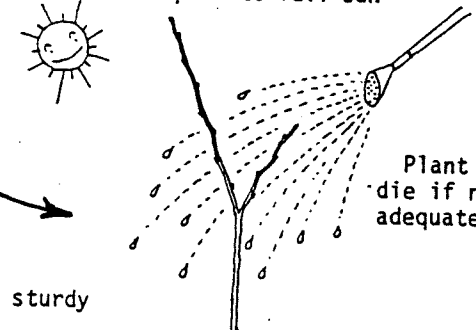
Outdoors on a shelf, the trees have grown uninhibited having been continually fertilized once per month and frequently watered. By November, the seedlings should reach a height of 20 cm (8 in).

SECOND YEAR

PREPARE POT FOR TRANSPLANTING March 10 - 20

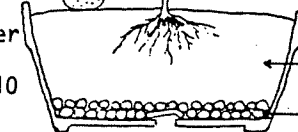


Do not expose to full sun



Cut tap-roots and long, sturdy roots

Apply rape seed fertilizer dumpling April 10

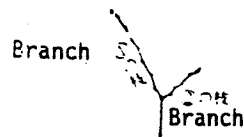


Potting soil:
7 parts red clay
3 parts leaf mold
Red clay drainage pellets

Number 3 or 4 Pot

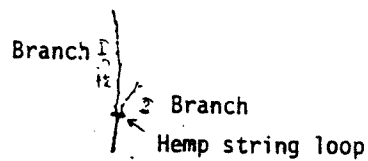
SECOND YEAR (Continued)

March 10 - 20



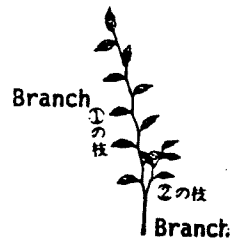
Seedling at time of transplanting

March 10 - 20



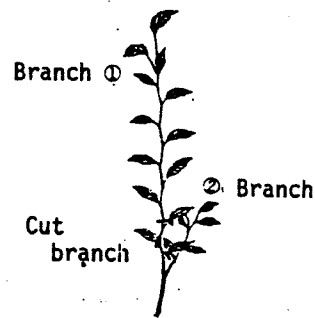
When transplanting has been done, bind both branches with hemp string to narrow the fork.

May 10 - 20



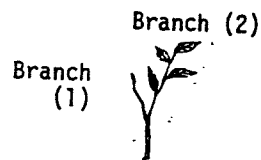
In this period leaves emerge, the gap between the branches has narrowed, and the hemp string can be removed

June 1 - 10



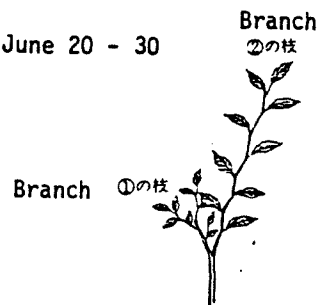
Cut the longer branch (1) back to 2 to 3 segments (leaves) and clip all leaves from branch (1)

June 1 - 10



Results of pruning, leaf clipping

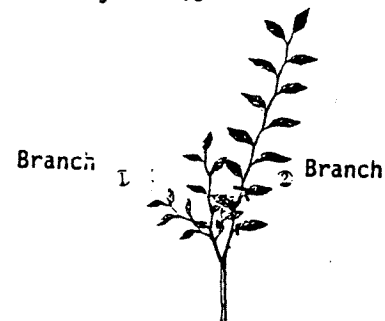
June 20 - 30



Branch (2) has been flourishing in its growth. Smaller leaves appear on branch (1) after the pruning and leaf clipping.

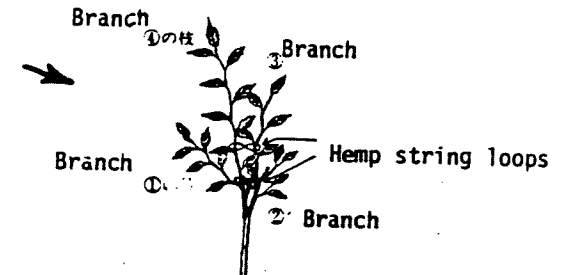
SECOND YEAR (Continued)

July 1 - 10



Grooming of branch (2) is the same as for branch (1), - cut so that 2 to 3 sections (leaves) remain and clip leaves from branch (2)

July 10 - 20

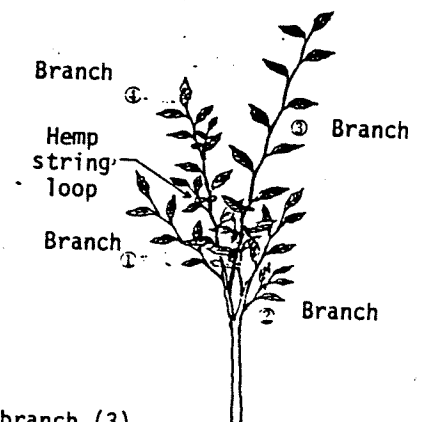


Having cut branches (1) and (2), number (3) branch shows the signs of the most growth. Apply a hemp string loop to branches (3) and (4) to narrow the fork.

Directions for Bending Branch

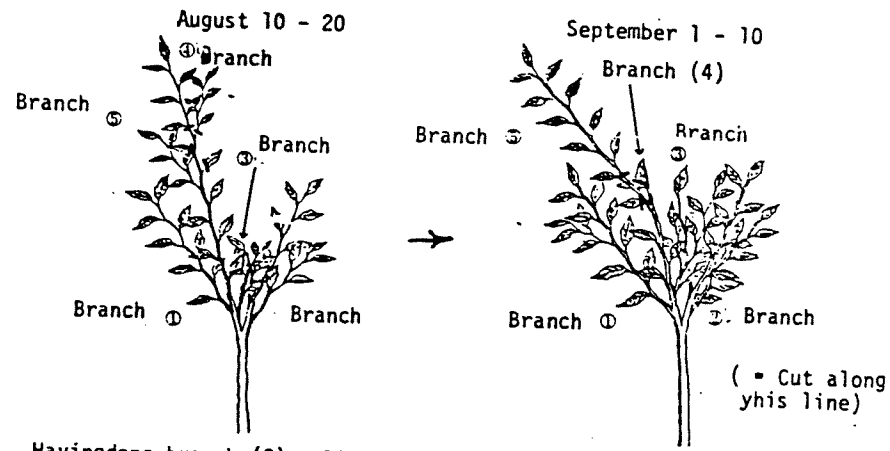


August 1 - 10



Cut branch (3) which has grown to be the longest, so that 2 to 3 segments or leaves remain and clip the leaves from branch (3)

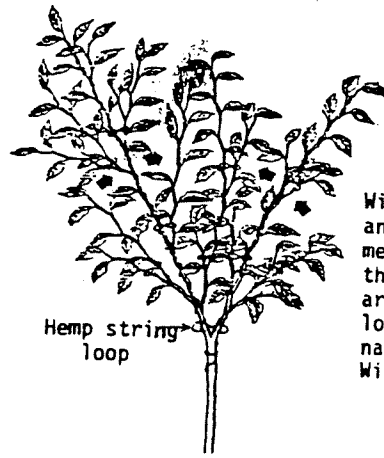
SECOND YEAR (Continued)



Having done branch (3), clip branch (4) which has grown long so that only 2 to 3 segments remain and then leaf clip all the leaves from branch (4)

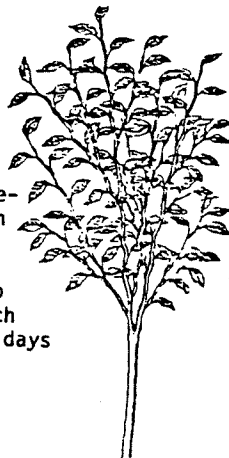
Branch (5) has now become the longer branch. Prune it back to 2 to 3 segments and then clip all the leaves from branch (5).

THIRD YEAR



WIRING APPLIED

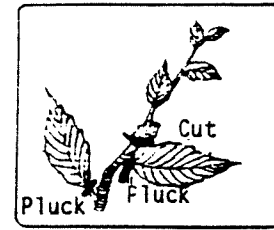
WIRING June 1 - 10
Wire the long branches and correct their placement by bending them in the directions of the arrows. Also apply loops of hemp string to narrow the angle at each joint. Wire is left on for 20 days



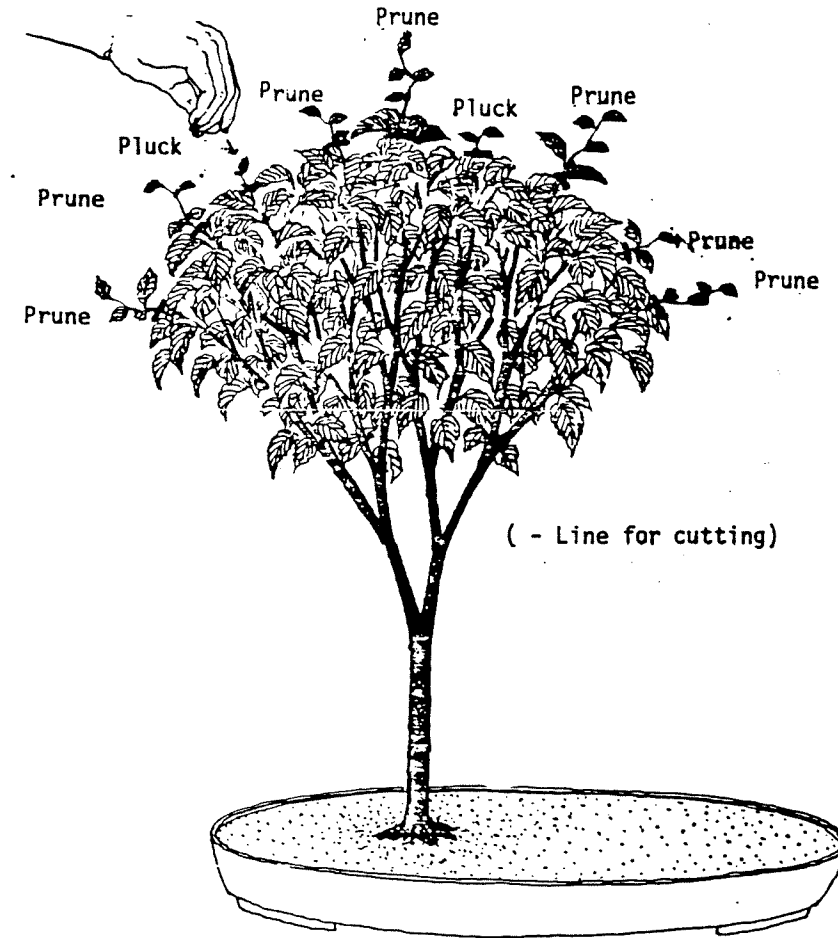
RESULTS AFTER WIRE HAS BEEN REMOVED

SIXTH YEAR

SPROUT PLUCKING
AND
PRUNING
May 20 to August



METHOD OF PRUNING



(- Line for cutting)

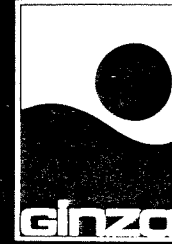
Having transplanted the tree into a bonsai display pot, from May 20 through August continually shape the tree by removing useless, protruding branchlets and sprouts using a combination of pruning and plucking. Of course, every month apply fertilizer and do not forget to adequately water.

KEYAKI or CHINESE ELM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Month/Days	Y E A R			
	First	Second	Third	Fourth
March 20 - 30	Seedlings sprout Place outdoors on a bonsai shelf. Water adequately	Prepare for potting and pot repotting and pot	Prepare for repotting and pot	Plant in a bonsai display pot.
April 1 - 10		Place outdoors on bonsai shelf Start applying fertilizer once every month Water adequately		
May 10 - 20	Start applying fertilizer once per month			
June 1 - 10 to		Prune Leaf clip Remove sprouts		Prune Leaf clip Remove sprouts
June 1 - 10 June 20 - 30 September 1 - 10			Prune Leaf clip Apply wire in the beginning, - remove in 20 days	
June 20 - 30 thru August	Prune long branches			
October 1 - 10	Stop fertilizing			
November 20 - 30	Place under cover			
December 1 10		Place under cover (in a greenhouse)		

In the 5th and subsequent years repeat the operations during the time periods cited in the 4th year. Repeat only every 2 years.



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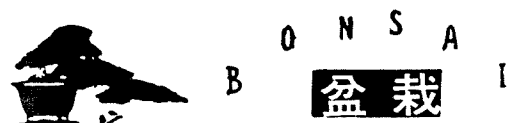
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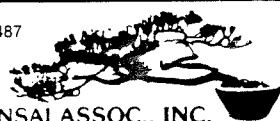
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For More Information, Contact:

Molly Hersh or Josephine Finneyrock
 102 Devon Court • Silver Spring, MD 20910
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