

POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION
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POTOMAC
BONSAI
ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

HAPPY HANUKAH

MERRY CHRISTMAS

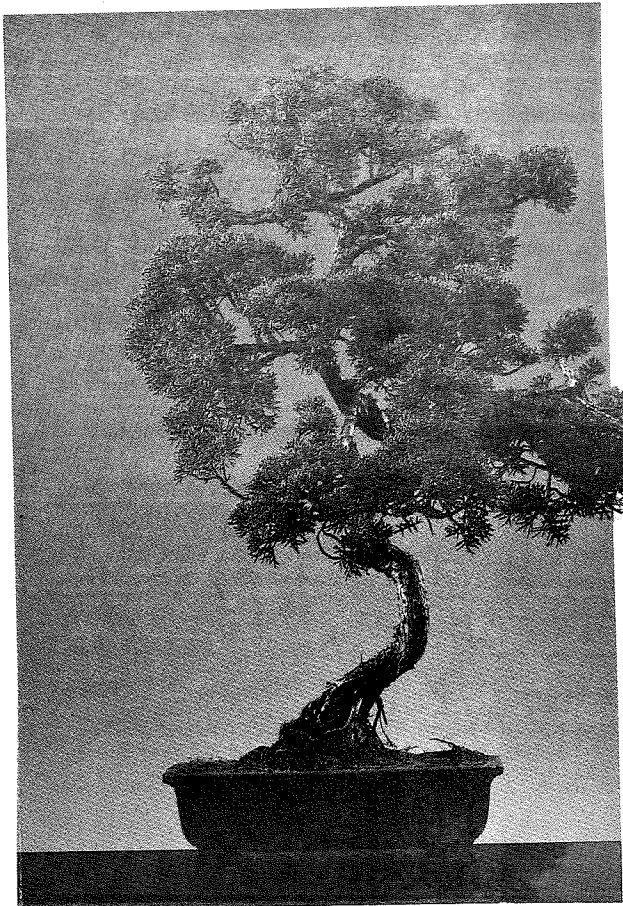
HAPPY NEW YEAR

BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR
and
SUCCESS WITH YOUR BONSAI

28 January Thursday

BROOKSIDE (301) 381-6549; Argyle Community Center. 7:00 p.m.
BEGINNERS' CORNER. Regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be conducted by past president Norma Brand. Norma will be showing us examples of how to choose the correct container for your tree. The selection has sometimes been likened to selecting a frame for a picture.

NOTE : ANY PBA MEMBER CAN ATTEND
 ATTEND ANY MEETING



EACH
BONSAI
IS A
MASTERPIECE

← What is this?
See bottom of
page 25.

CATALOGUE
1 9 8 7



CRYPTOMERIA or SUGI

MULTI-TRUNK AND SINGLE TRUNK BONSAI

BACKGROUND The Latin name *Cryptomeria Japonica* is a giveaway that the tree is a native of Japan (reference 1). The tree in its native environment can grow to heights of 150 feet and trunk girths of 18 to 30 feet. The *Cryptomeria* or *Sugi* as the Japanese have named it, is the Japanese cedar and is the Japanese equivalent to the giant Sequoia which has the only similar foliage with shorter, gray-green needles (reference 2). The bark at once distinguishes them; the *Sugi* has thin tight, hard, stringy red-brown bark; giant Sequoia bark is thick, loose fibrous (reference 2).

Any first visit to Japan is normally not complete without a trip to Nikko National Park 90 miles north of Tokyo. There one cannot fail to be impressed by the vaulted, cathedral-like approach to the Toshogu Shrine created by the giant *Sugi*. (The Toshogu Shrine was built in the early 1600s at the request of and after the death of shogun Tokugawa Iyeyasu,— the shogun Tanagawa in James Clavell's novel "Shogun". Iyeyasu is buried there. The shrine is Buddhist and a small forerunner replaced a Shinto temple as early as 767,— see reference 3.)

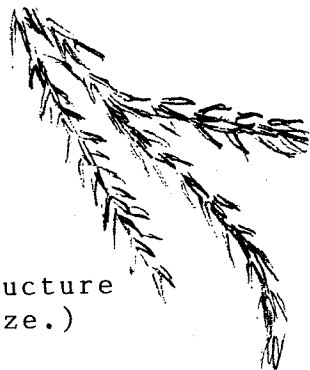
The *Sugi* at Nikko (reference 4) were planted as seedlings over a period of 20 years beginning in 1636 with three nearby villages under the Daimyo Matsudaira, participating in the endeavor. This gift of 17,000 trees now fully grown, line the sides of three roads leading to the Toshugawa Shrine and are also planted on the grounds of the shrine. Originally the intent was to plant 200,000 *Sugi* but like other projects was stopped at 17,000 because of the expense. Reference 2 indicates that *Sugi* may stand for 500 years,— let us hope that the grandeur of the *Sugi* at Nikko will provide the approaches with the serene dignity befitting a shrine for another 500 years.

Another famous Buddhist shrine in Japan which is worth a visit is Koya-san where in a mile-long avenue of mausolea under the high-arched canopy of Sugi trees, some of the most illustrious families of Japan lie under moss-covered stone monuments. Try and visit this shrine and stay in a monastery overnight and dine on their all-vegetarian meals,- you wont regret it.

INTRODUCTION Sugi is a tree that is accepted by the bonsai community in Japan for bonsai. Those who have read Toshio Kawamoto's book "Saikai, Living Landscapes in Miniature" know very well that a number of the saikai in that book were created using Sugi. Recently Bill Valvanis' excellent publication "International

Bonsai" contained an article in the 1986/No. 2 issue on Sugi titled "Developing Formal Upright Style Cryptomeria Bonsai" by Kiyoshi Murakawa, Kyosuke Gun, H. Carl & Shin Young, William M. Valavanis. Those two references are excellent sources if information on creating Sugi bonsai. The adaptation of the Japanese article on creating multi-trunk and single trunk Sugi which follows, is another insight in how to make a bonsai from this interesting plant material.

Sugi Characteristics Juvenile Sugi have sprouts emanating from the trunk which is a green color and remains that way until the trunk starts to harden into a brown color with age. The standard leaf shape and shape of the full-grown tree in the open are shown herewith.



Leaf structure
(Full size.)

6



Stand alone
Full grown
Sugi's shape.

Sugi love lots of water,- something for bonsaiists who like to overwater.

Sugi may require at least one-half day shade during the Summer months.

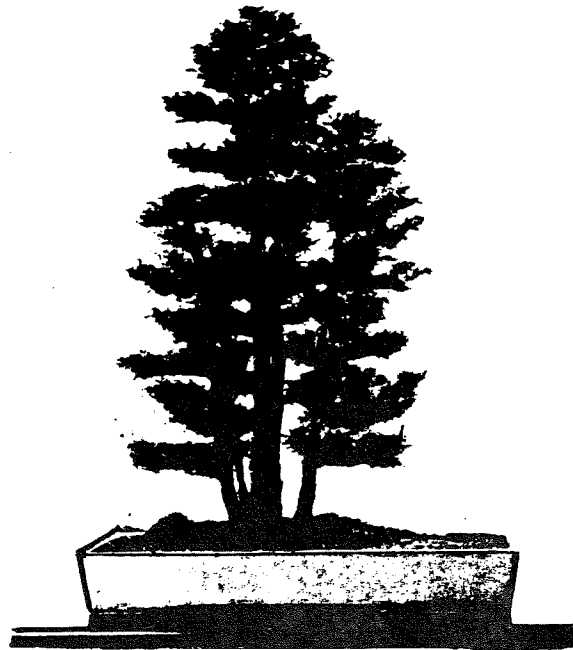
Sugi are listed as hardy outdoors in Zone 5 or warmer (reference 1). Zone 5 is categorized as having an average annual minimum temperature of -5 to -10 degrees Fahrenheit and the Washington, D.C., area is listed as Zone 6 with a 5 to -5 degree range. However, some local bonsaiists who have worked with Sugi indicate that it is preferable to give some Winter protection such as a cold frame to insure survival. Are Sugi suitable as an indoor bonsai? Would appreciate to hear from anyone who has tried it. Indoors, they certainly should be kept over a tray of pebbles and water to keep the moisture level up and a period in a cool spot for Winter dormancy.

Sugi is subject to a fungus, and the Japanese article recommends using lime-sulfur as the fungicide,- the same ill-smelling liquid that one uses to paint jin and shari and found

under the trade name "ORTHO Orthorix Spray" among others. The Japanese article recommends using, once in Summer, a 1 to 60 solution which appears to be about one-half strength for the Orthorix or 2-1/2 tablespoons per gallon or a tad under 2 teaspoons per quart of water. Once again 6 months later, a weaker quarter-strength solution of lime-sulfur is applied.

7

(Continued
on next
page.)



Sugi: Multi-Trunk
Style

The following is an adaptation of an article in Japanese written by Shunnori Suzaki which appeared in the publication "Directions for the Preparation of Pine and Conifer Bonsai with Illustrated Explanatory Notes".

The author, Mr. Shunnori Suzaki, lists five species of Sugi suitable for bonsai: Yama Sugi, Hatsu Fusa Sugi, Tama Sugi, Arakawa Sugi, and small needle type Sugi. Unfortunately one does not live in Japan to have possible access to 5 or more species of Sugi. (My last source of Sugi was Brussel's Bonsai Nursery, 8365 Center Hill Road, Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654, and I do not know what cultivar they are.)

PROPAGATING The author felt that, with the exception of by chance being lucky, it is speculative that one might be able to choose good material. He suggests that you raise your own material.

SELECTING the TREE and 1st and 2nd YEARS

Method for Selecting Tree The proposed method is to obtain the starter material from a cutting, and the suggested optimum time is either during May or June. The selected top or "wick" of the parent tree should be 12 to 20 inches in length.

The wick should be selected so that a number of branches or sprouts emerge from the trunk just above the place for the cut. These will not only stabilize the wick in the pot but also become the multi-trunks. For the single trunk the same procedure is followed

and the single trunk is selected from the multi-trunks one year after the wick has been placed in a pot to root.

In the 2nd year sometime in May or June the wick is removed from the parent plant, - a 12 to 20 inch-length is taken being careful to sever the wick from the trunk of the parent plant about 1-1/4 inches below an outcropping of a large number of branches. These branches will form the multiple trunks.

The wick is to be planted in an unglazed training pot which is about 10 inches in diameter, - a number 10 pot. The coarse sand in the pot is watered until water flows from the opening in the bottom of the pot before the wick is planted.

Immediately after potting, place the pot in a location where it is in half-a-day shade. Water as soon as the surface soil appears to be .7 or .8 dry. After one month, the pot can be placed on a bench outdoors.

Managing for the Remainder of the 2nd Year Once outdoors on the bench, the plant should be misted 3 to 4 times a day. Beginning in August, fertilize at one month intervals by applying and replacing each month, 3 to 4 fertilizer balls. This stops after October.

In September it is important to trim the sprouts to forestall unwanted lengthening of the trunks. The trimming is done with scissors. With the sprouts cut, the plant should definitely be placed in a half-day of shade.

The author, Mr. Shinnori Suzaki, advises that for his location in Japan, the planting should be sheltered for the winter. Their commonly used Japanese expression translates literally as "under the eaves" which involves placing the plant in a protected location from wind and frost. Normally our winters contain periods of days that are more severe than those in the Tokyo area and the pots cannot be left above ground or not in some kind of cold frame. The author notes the caution that everyone should follow when wintering bonsai and that is to not let them dry out, and for the Sugi water should be given when the surface soil appears to be .7 to .8 dry.

3rd YEAR OPERATIONS

Potting in a Bonsai Display Pot The suggested time to do this is between March 20 to 31. The Sugi is transferred from the training pot to an intermediate bonsai display pot

After the repotting, water the Sugi until it comes out of the bottom of the pot and then place it outdoors on top of a bench exposed to one-half a day of shade and good air movement,- no strong winds.

Watering, Fertilizing, Fungicide When .6 to .7 of the topsoil appears dry, water the Sugi. Also misting 3 to 4 times a day is advisable. In the Winter, once every 1 to 2 days for the watering is sufficient.

Fertilizing begins one month after the repotting. Use fertilizer balls about thumb size in diameter. The standard is 5 to 6 fertilizer balls for a 10 inch pot. The fertilizer balls are changed each month with the replacements not being placed where the ones being removed were located.

A fungicide of lime-sulfur is applied to the undersurfaces of the leaves during July. The lime-sulfur solution is half-strength,- see the section above under Introduction.

Sprout Training and Pruning Sugi have a long period of actively growing sprouts from Spring until Autumn and sprouts should be trimmed from June 20th until September.

Limp inner sprouts are to be pruned. During the pruning one should prune to set off the main branches from the secondary branches and the secondary branches from smaller side branches. Do not cut through the needles in the process but only cut through the stems.

The basic shape that not only the overall multi-trunk composition but also the individual trees must be pruned to, is a tapered triangle.

The object is to have the branches turn slightly upward. Hence any downward branches and sprouts that may eventually grow downward are removed.

Wiring Once the sprout trimming has been completed, the tree is wired to put the tree shapes in order. Wiring is done during the period when the Sugi is active and is removed when the Sugi is dormant,- i.e. from late Fall through the Winter season. IF THE WIRE IS NOT REMOVED, THE WIRED SEGMENT WILL MOST LIKELY DIE!

For a trunk or branches of 5/8 inch in diameter, number 12 copper wire is suggested as being satisfactory. The trunks are wired straight,- no kinks, and the branches are wired and bent slightly upward from the horizontal.

Winter Season Care During the Winter there is a big change in the vigor of the Sugi and during this period of weakened condition they need protection from frost and winds and they need to be watered to keep from drying out.

In January apply the lime-sulfur fungicide. The solution should be one-half the strength of that used in Summer.

4th YEAR

Removal of Unwanted Branches is done during a March 20 to 31 timeframe when the Sugi is awakening from its hibernation period.

Full Dress Bonsai Pot The Sugi is placed in a "full dress" or final bonsai display pot for showing. This can be done anywhere from April 10 to May 31. The recommended pot is a thin, oval shaped pot with a "mud" or unglazed color. The bottom of the pot is covered with a thin layer of large-size Turface to act as a drainage layer. This layer is then covered with a thin layer of the soil mix before the Sugi is placed in the pot. The suggested Japanese soil mix can be translated into the following soil mix of ingredients available in this country:- 6 parts Turface, 2 parts Gran-I-Grits, and 2 parts Metro-Mix. The roots are spread out over the thin layer of soil- any roots growing downward that prevent the Sugi from fitting into the pot have been removed. Soil is then added and for the repotting, watering and placement outdoors - follow the instructions for the previous year.

Care After Repotting The activities are similar to those pursued in the 3rd year. In a June July period pruning and wiring are done. Wire is applied to the trunks and branches that were wired in the 2nd year.

Apply the wire in the proper sequence.- i.e. trunks first, main branches next, and then side branches. The trunks are wired straight vertically and the main branches and side branches are wired slightly above the vertical.

SUBSEQUENT CARE

In the years after the 4th year, the same schedule as for the 4th year is followed except that repotting takes place every 2 years instead of every year. Pruning and sprout trimming should begin in June and continue through September. Wiring is applied where needed to maintain the basic shapes.

SINGLE TRUNK

The steps mentioned above for the multi-trunk Sugi also apply to the single trunk Sugi.

EPILOGUE

Sugi or Cryptomeria Japonica are fun to play with. These little Christmas trees root very easily from quite lengthy cuttings.

I touched base with Norma Brand, Brookside Bonsai Club, to find out about her past experiences with Cryptomeria bonsai. She indicated that her experiences were all negative, although she is intrigued with the material for making bonsai group plantings. She would like to try again if she could be assured that problem which she encountered in the past could be overcome. This centered about the gradual demise of the Sugi characterized by the gradual browning of the leaves and then the branches and eventually the trunk. The variety elegans, reference 2, has leaves which turn brown in winter.

However, I have noted the condition which Norma has mentioned, on the young Sugi in my collection. In some cases the leaves of a branch have dried and then a new sprout appears from the branch. In other cases the entire tree has died. Norma has talked to Bob Dreschler, Curator of the National Bonsai Collection,

and learned that the problem is caused by a fungus which once started apparently cannot be eliminated completely from the plant but can be contained so that any damage can be forestalled.

The Japanese author of the article above, Mr. Shunnori Suzuki, indicates that lime-sulfur solution should be applied twice a year at 6 month intervals. Norma Brand tried some fungicides but did not use lime-sulfur and in our telephone conversation she remarked that lime-sulfur may have succeeded where the others failed.

The author, Mr. Shinnori Suzuki, also indicates that the Sugi should be misted a number of times each day in the off-winter seasons. It seems that misting might reinforce the formation of a fungus. I'm going to follow the Japanese article and see what happens.

ATTENTION Are there any readers who would like to comment on the above? Please forward any pertinent information on Sugi and your past experiences to the editor (see the back page of the Newsletter for the address or telephone number) and share them with the other readers. I'm only into the 2nd year of trying to grow Sugi bonsai and would appreciate all the help I can get.

Has anyone tried Sugi as indoor bonsai material?

IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED CRYPTOMERIA FOR BONSAI, GET ONE AND TRY IT AND HAVE SOME FUN!

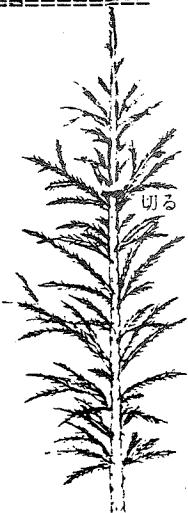
Jules Koetsch

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- WYMAN'S GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Donald Wyman; MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc.; New York; 1971.
THE TREE KEY, by Herbert Edlin; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; 1978.
THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA, Editor in Chief A. H. McDannald, B.L.; Americana Corporation; New York; 1947 edition.
NIKKO TOSHOGU, edited and published by Mori Hon Jousan, Tokyo; 1956; in Japanese and English.

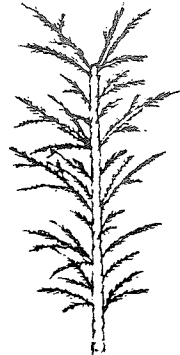
CREATING A MULTI-TRUNK SUGI (CRYPTOMERIA) BONSAI

FIRST YEAR

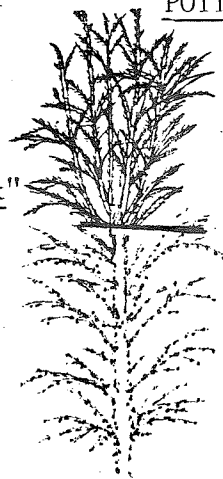


PICKING the "WICK"

30
50
cm
12 to 20 inches.



SECOND YEAR



POTTING the "WICK"

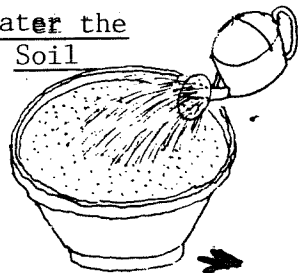
May to June

Selected "Wick" Cut

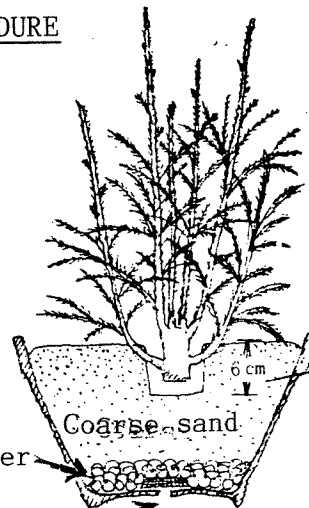
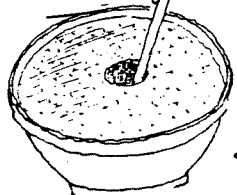
Cut-off about a 12 inch "wick" about 1 1/4 inches below a point where a number of branches emanate.

PROCEDURE

Water the Soil



Make a Hole

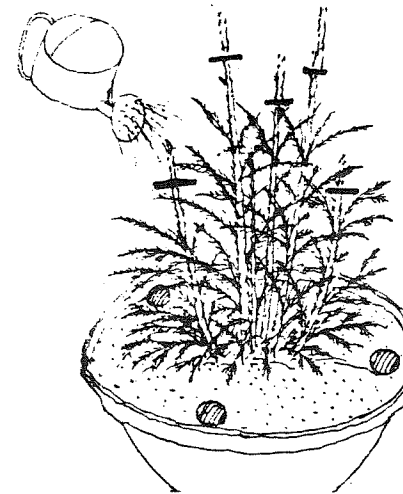


6 cm 2 1/2 inches

Pebble drainage layer

10 inch diameter unglazed training pot.

TRIM SPROUTS - September



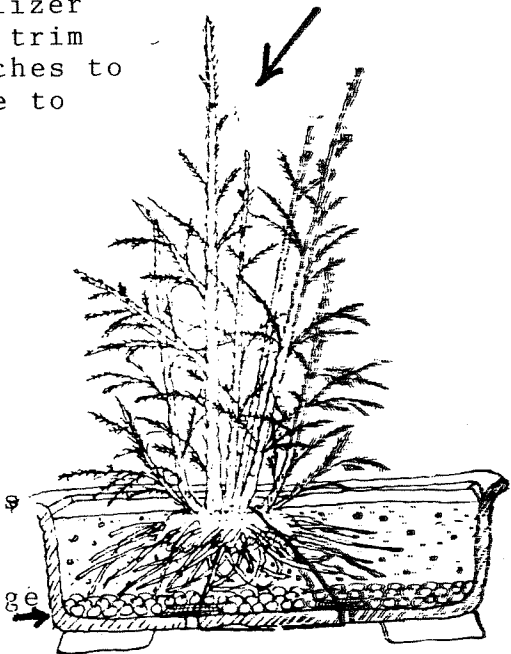
(Cut along these lines — .)

When .7 to .8 of topsoil appears dry, water. After August, allot fertilizer balls. In September trim the trunks and branches to the lengths they are to remain.

POTTING

Soil mix
6 parts Turface
2 parts Gran-I-Grits
2 parts Metro-Mix

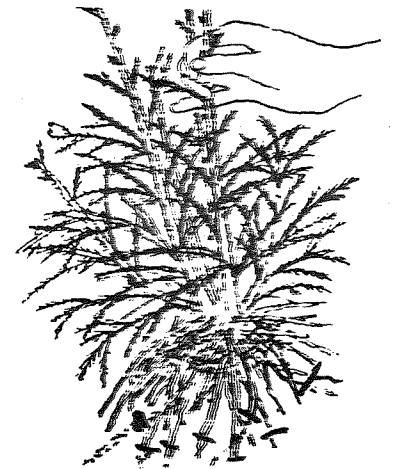
Large Turface drainage layer



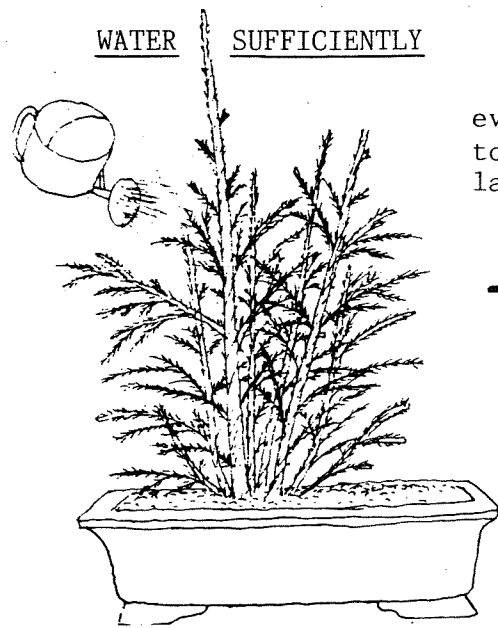
Semi-deep, plain colored, rectangular bonsai pot.

3rd YEAR

POTTING in a BONSAI DISPLAY POT



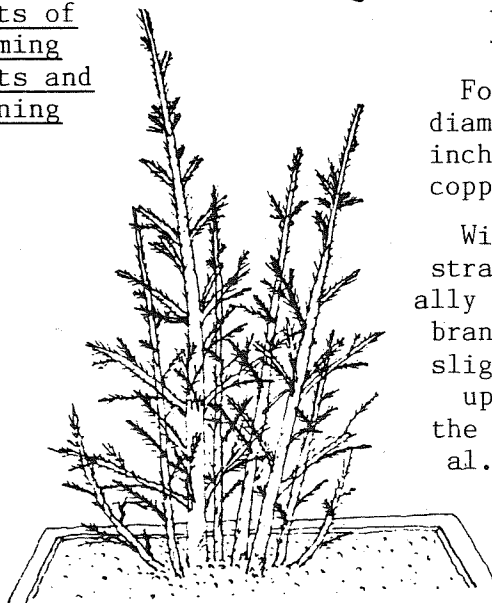
Consolidate Roots



WATER SUFFICIENTLY

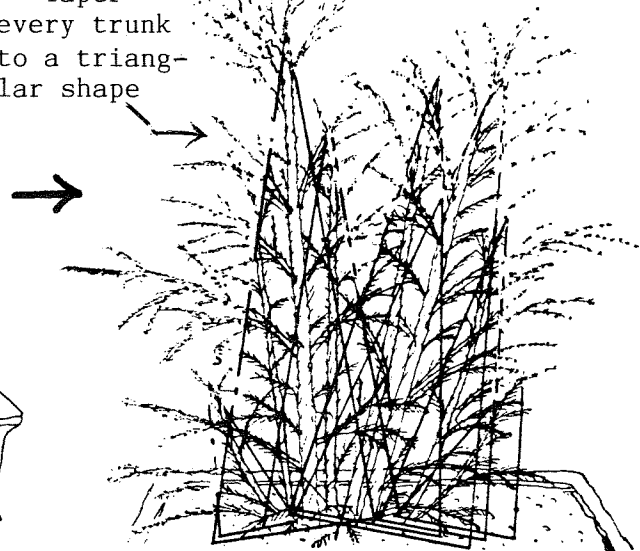
Sugi are fond of water. Water when surface of soil appears to 7 to 8 parts dry.

Results of Trimming Sprouts and Pruning



TRIM SPROUTS and PRUNE June thru September

Taper every trunk to a triangular shape



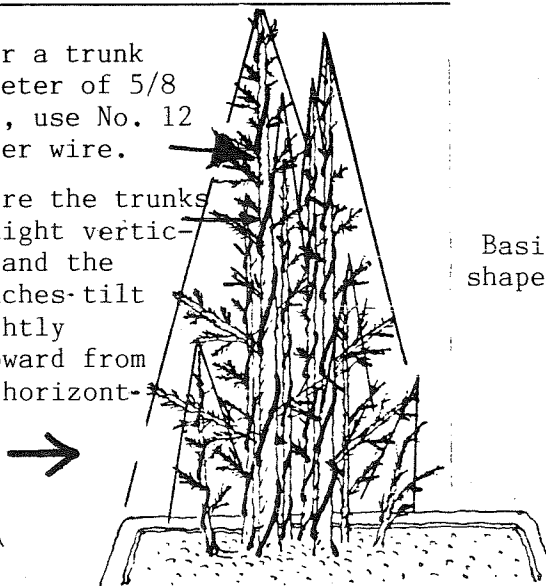
Prune every trunk and branches to conform to the triangular shapes above, - the basic shapes.

WIRING - TRUNKS and BRANCHES

For a trunk diameter of 5/8 inch, use No. 12 copper wire.

Wire the trunks straight vertically and the branches tilt slightly upward from the horizontal.

Basic shape



4th YEAR

FULL DRESS BONSAI DISPLAY POT -

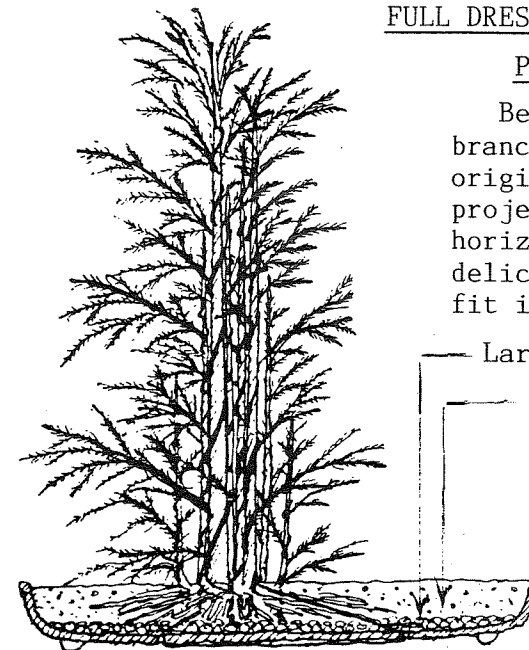
Pot Between March 10 and May 31

Before potting, remove unnecessary branches. Next remove 1/3 of the original soil. Cut-off any downward projecting roots and spread out horizontally all large and also delicate roots so that the plant will fit into the pot.

Large Surface drainage layer.

Soil Mix

- 6 parts Turface
- 2 parts Gran-I-Grits
- 2 parts Metro-Mix

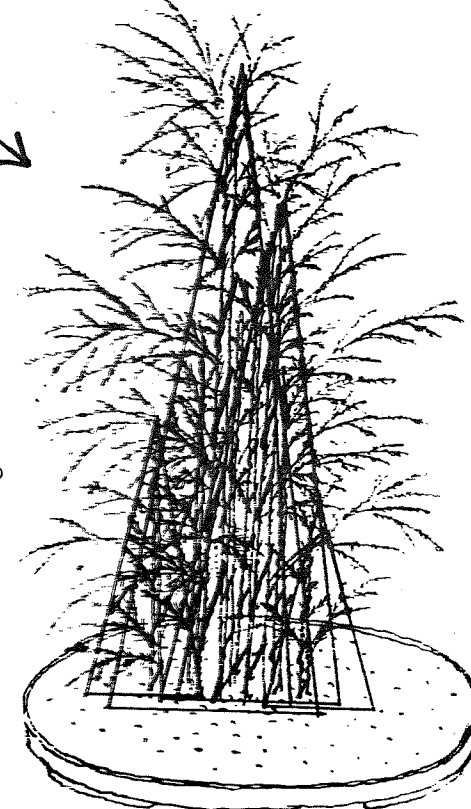


Unglazed, shallow, oval pot.

TRIM SPROUTS and PRUNE

June thru September

In order to achieve a triangular shape to each of the trees and also each branch's foliage, each trunk and branch must be pruned and sprouts must be trimmed. The overall triangular shape is to be maintained as well as for each individual tree and each of their branches.

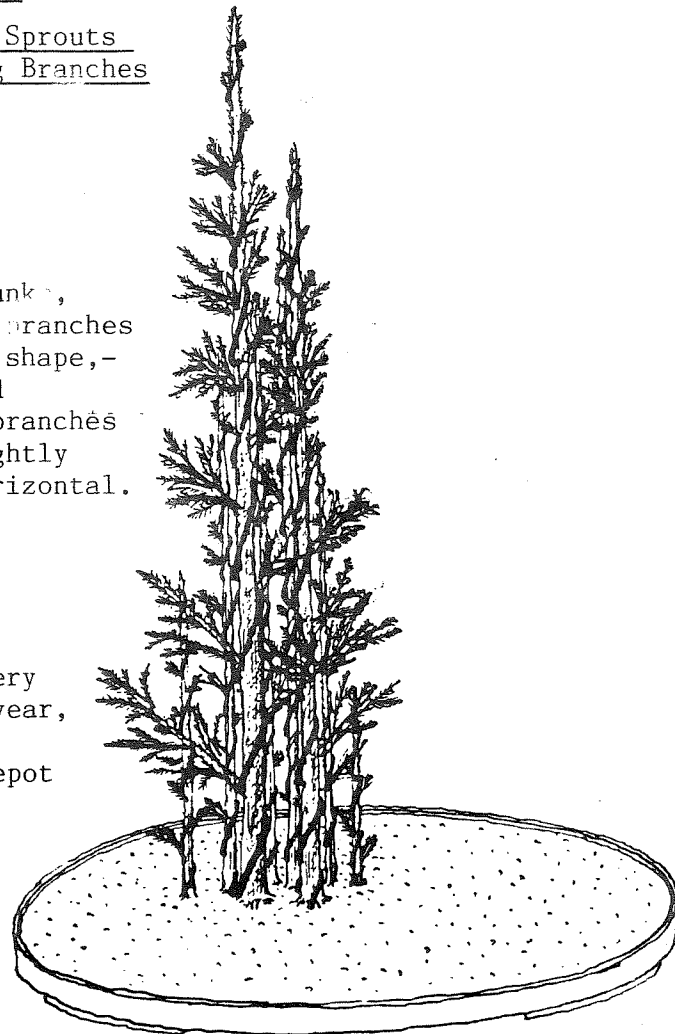


WIRING COMPLETED

After Trimming Sprouts
and Pruning Branches

Once more wire trunk, branches, and small branches to regain the basic shape, - i.e. trunks are wired vertically and the branches are wired to be slightly tilted above the horizontal.

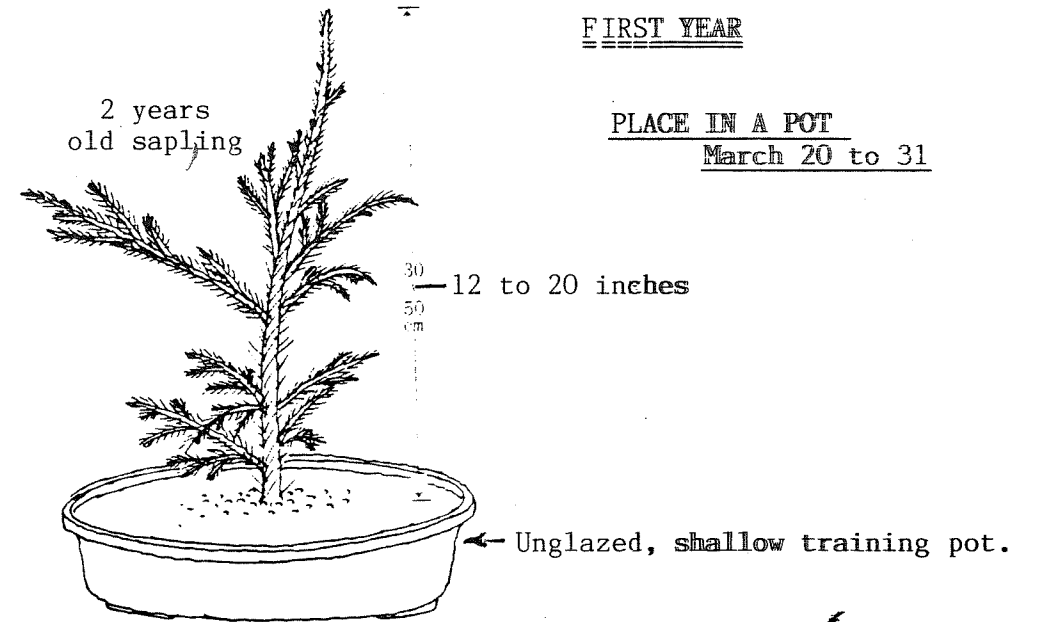
In conclusion, every year after the 4th year, repeat the 4th year procedures except repot every 2 years.



CREATING a SINGLE-TRUNK SUGI (CRYPTOMERIA)

FIRST YEAR

PLACE IN A POT
March 20 to 31

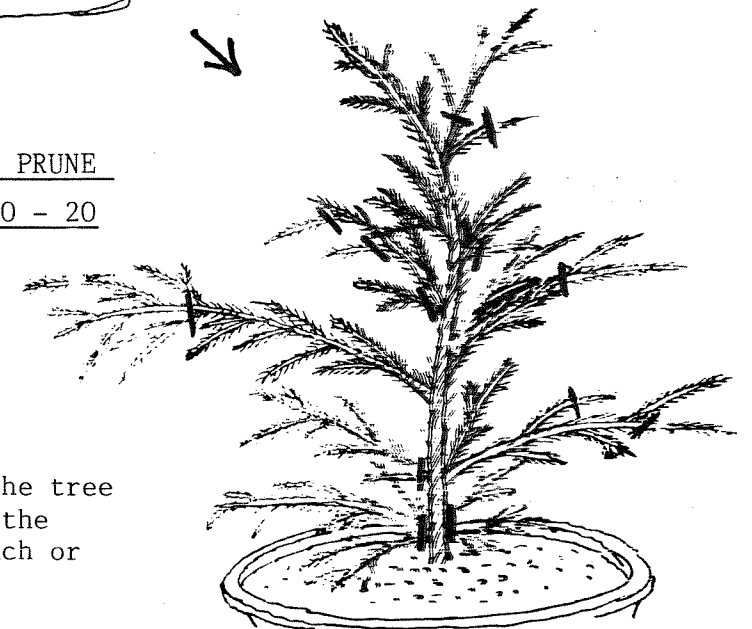


TRIM SPROUTS and PRUNE

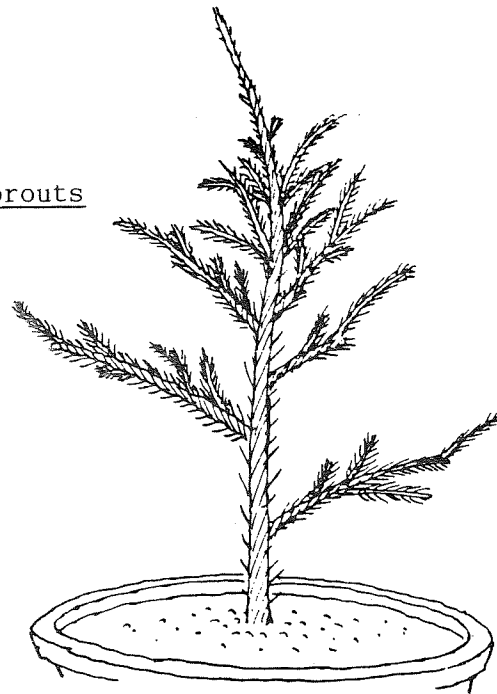
September 10 - 20

(Cut on these lines - .)

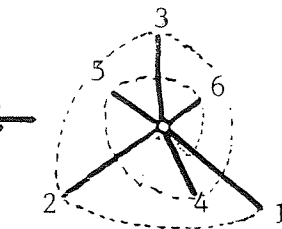
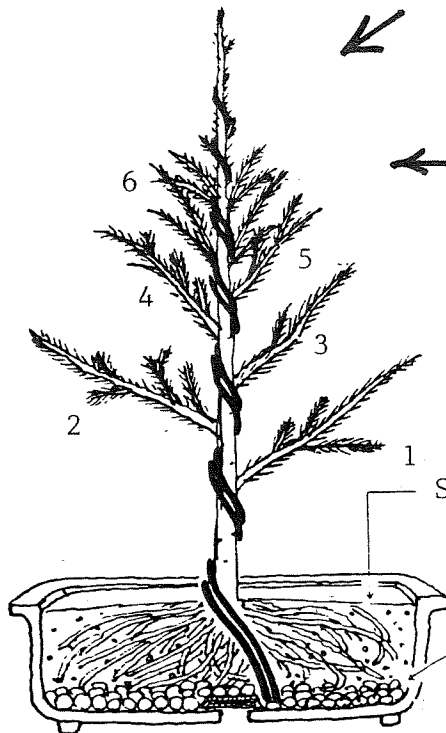
Balance and symmetry must be considered for the tree before reducing the length of a branch or shortening it.



Tree After Trimming Sprouts and Pruning Branches.



RESULTS OF SPROUT TRIMMING and PRUNING WIRING.



Top View of Tree Showing Branch Distribution

Wire the trunk to be straight. If one wire is not effective, use a second wire.

Soil mix
6 parts Turface
2 parts of Gran-I-Grits
2 parts Metro-Mix

Drainage layer of large Turface.

CRYPTOMERIA BONSAI
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	YEAR			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Jan			Apply fungicide.	
Mar 20 - 31			Put in bonsai display pot, place outdoors on shelf, water.	Final arranging in second bonsai display pot. Remove unwanted bottom branches. Place outdoors on top of shelf and water.
Apr 20 - 30			Fertilize.	Fertilize.
May 20 - 31			Fertilize.	Fertilize.
May and/or Jun		Select head of wick, cut-off, pot, place outdoors on shelf in half-day shade.		
Jun	Select wick			
Jun 1 - 10				Trim sprouts and prune. Commence annual program.
Jun 20 - 30			Fertilize.	Fertilize.
Jul 1 - 10		Apply fungicide.	Apply fungicide.	Apply fungicide.
Aug		Fertilize.		
Aug 20 - 31			Fertilize.	Fertilize.
Sep		Fertilize. Trim sprouts.		
Sep 20 - 30			Fertilize. Trim sprouts and prune, - finish wiring trunks and branches.	Fertilize. Trim sprouts and prune. Wire branches.
Oct		Fertilize		
Oct 20 - 31			Fertilize.	Fertilize.
Dec 1 - 12	← Winter protection. →			

Note: Repeat the 4th year procedures in the ensuing years except replot every 2 years.

SINGLE TRUNK

	YEAR	
	1st and 2nd	3rd
Jan		Apply fungicide.
Mar 20 - 31	Prepare the pot, place in half-day shade.	Pot in bonsai display pot, place outdoors on a shelf and water.
Apr 20 - 30	Place outdoors on top of a shelf and water.	Fertilize.
May 20 - 31		Fertilize.
Jun 1 - 10		Trim sprouts and prune.
Jun 20 - 30		Fertilize.
Jul 20 - 31	Apply fungicide.	Fertilize. Apply fungicide
Aug 20 - 31	Fertilize.	From this time follow the directions for the above multi-trunk cryptomeria.
Sep 20 - 30	Fertilize. Trim sprouts and prune, wire.	↓ ↓
Oct 20 - 31	Fertilize.	
Dec 1 - 10	Winter protection.	

ANNOUNCING THE SECOND ANNUAL WINTER BONSAI RETREAT

"Tray Landscapes, bonkei, saikei and microenvironments"

You are invited to attend another in-depth study weekend in Florida in February. All of the attractions which made our first conference such a resounding success will be retained:

- study by immersion of a single facet of the art
- an elite group of vendors
- a high level exhibit of bonsai
- workshop activities of a level heretofore unattainable
- the Conference Proceedings, a publication including the text of all programs

THE TOPICS

Each program will be devoted to another aspect of tray landscapes including: the use of the effect of water, of rocks, of secondary plantings, of color, of texture, composition; creation of depth, transferring two dimensions to three; choosing a tray; the art of display; topography; technical aspects of the planting; computer simulation; and others.

THE SPEAKERS

Our speakers have been confirmed, and they will be Dr. Leon Snyder, Dr. David Andrews, Marian Borchers, Marion Gyllenswan, Mike Kling, Cliff Pottberg and the landscape painter Robert Butler.

THE WORKSHOPS

A three day workshop! After the other programs on the first day, we will design and plan our landscapes with our workshop leader. On the second day we will choose our materials and on the third day we will execute! Attendance in the workshop is free to all conference participants; however the materials cost will depend strictly upon the design and size of landscape that is decided upon with the workshop leader. There will be a limit to ten participants in each workshop with observers allowed.

The conference will be held, as last year, in the excellent facilities of the Admiral Benbow Inn in Tampa, Florida. Room rates are extremely reasonable.

THE DATES ARE FEBRUARY 26-28, 1988

For further information, contact Cliff Pottberg or Mike Kling at The Ranch Nursery, (813) 856-3378 or Alexis Bearer at (813) 862-7582.

The registration is \$195, with a \$35 discount until ~~December~~ ^{January} 1. You may reserve a place at the conference with a \$50 deposit, and a \$20 deposit toward the materials fee of the workshop if you wish to actually create a landscape in the workshops. The deposits are refundable until February 1.

_____ Yes, here is my deposit of \$50; please reserve my place.

_____ Please send me more information about "The Florida Conference on Tray Landscapes".

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: Florida Bonsai Retreat, P.O. Box 5204, Hudson, Florida 33567

For reservations, contact the Admiral Benbow Inn, 1200 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33607
Telephone: in Florida 1-800-282-7569; Outside Florida 1-800-237-7535

BONSAI VIDEO TAPES

The following VHS video tapes are a part of the PBA library and are available by contacting Bill Spencer at (301) 871-5768. Round trip postage with \$100.00 insurance will be required upon request for each video. Each video should cost \$3.50 one way, including insurance.

The **BONSAI WORKSHOP** Series from the Nippon Bonsai Association

Tape #1

- #1 The Basic Principles of Bonsai.
- #2 Cultivation of Bonsai #1

Tape #2

- #3 Cultivation of Bonsai #2
- #4 Methods of Forming Bonsai

Tape #3

- #5 Repotting and Watering

Tape #4

- #6 Group Planting
- #7 Rock-grown Bonsai

International Bonsai Series MASTERS BONSAI TECHNIQUES

- Volume 1 Chase Rosade - SHAPING TECHNIQUES
- Volume 2 John Naka - CARVING TECHNIQUES
- Volume 3 Marion Gyllenswan - ROCK PLANTING BONSAI
- Volume 4 William Valavanis - GROUP PLANTING BONSAI

Bonsai, Art and Horticulture - William Valavanis
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- Sunday**
More demonstrations, plus workshops by
- John Naka
 - Hiroyoshi Yamaji

Dates: April 23rd and 24th, 1988
Place: George Washington Motor Lodge, Willow Grove, PA
Cost: Full registration, \$85 including buffet lunch
Saturday Only, \$60; Sunday Only, \$40

Watch For Reservation Forms. For More Information Write:
Gunnar M. Berg, 73 Van Allen Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, (201) 652-8844

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(Advertisements were from brochures provided by Bob Sitnick.)



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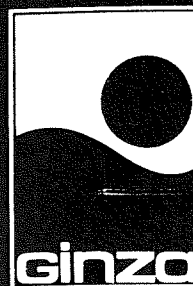
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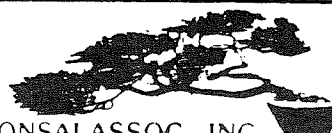


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