Bonsai Survival Manual: Tree-by-Tree Guide To Buying, Maintaining, And Problem Solving
Synopsis

Expand your gardening repertoire as you create a captivating and exquisite miniature world. In this introductory guide, Colin Lewis covers everything you need to know to design, grow, and successfully maintain attractive bonsai. Providing detailed profiles of 50 popular varieties of bonsai plants and trees, Lewis offers expert advice on selecting suitable species and step-by-step guidance on feeding, watering, shaping, maintaining proper temperatures, and troubleshooting common problems. Discover the joys of the ancient and fascinating world of bonsai.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a new convert, I have been frustrated by most books on bonsai. They are filled with wonderful information, but the author often takes for granted that you are an experience bonsai enthusiast. Mr. Lewis does not do that. With excellent pictures and color graphics, he explains in great detail what to look for (and look OUT for!) when buying a tree, as well as detailed advice on pruning and shaping techniques. I wish I had bought this sooner.

I've found the advices the book gives for buying a bonsai very helpful. On the other hand it helped me and my friends understanding why we did not succeeded in keeping our little trees alive. After reading the brief but thoroughly information about "trees necessities" I decided to try again and my ume(plum)-bonsai look now quite happy.
The Bonsai Survival Manual contains just about everything you need to know about growing and keeping Bonsai. It is well organized with sections on general care and techniques followed by sections on specific species. There is information in here that I have not seen in other books on Bonsai. The writing is terse, concise, and easy to read and understand. The Bonsai photographs show off the beauty of this art form. All in all, I found this book to be the most useful and fun to read of any Bonsai book I have read.

I found this book to be extremely helpful. The care and design tips were concise and easy to follow. The trees in the guide were common in my area and easy to find. I was also able to use the guide to avoid some species that are more challenging in my area.

Bought this book after my first tree died, thinking maybe another book may give me a better chance of success. This book is very informationally and easy to follow. The information on individual tree is very helpful in picking trees to grow.

This is an excellent basics book and would rate it 5 stars if that is what you are looking for. I give it 4 stars because it gives one enough information to be dangerous but not enough to certain. Example: Using fungicides and pesticides. Certain trees Maples for instance, are very sensitive and be harmed using chemicals they recommend are safe for most trees. Define most!! An excellent starter basics book just not the only book one should use in my view.

This is a very good book to learn about individual species. This book has profiles 50 species of bonsais. It includes out door bonsais and indoor bonsais. Each profile is two pages. It includes one or two pictures, an older bonsai and a younger bonsai. It gives a description of the bonsai, which includes the history and where it is grown, along with a lot of helpful information on growing and caring for each bonsai. It has a chart for each bonsai with includes light, water, temperature, soil and a few other things. The information about each bonsai is very interesting and helpful. Many bonsai books don't give you much information on individual species and their needs. It is very important to know what a bonsai needs before you decide on a bonsai. You need to know if you can meet the needs of a bonsai. At the beginning of the book there is general information on bonsais, buying, care, plus trimming, pruning, repotting, root pruning, shaping with wire etc. This is good information and the pictures are detail, but it is not exceptional. There are better books on the care and training of bonsais. But the book is well worth getting for the information it gives you on the
individual bonsais.

I have been doing bonsai for over a year now and have read many books on the subject. I don’t believe any one can give you all the information you need to be successful with these wonderful little trees, but this one is chock full of usefull information in a clean no nonsense format. From soil mixture to lighting and fertilization- this book outlines what is best for a lot of the most popular trees out there and gives useful general information as well! If you are new to the art or have been doing it a short while I highly recommend this little gem!

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