

Bonsai Care Sheet

Species:

Latin name here

Position: This is an...

Common name here

- ☐ Indoor bonsai – it needs year-round warmth
- ☐ Outdoor bonsai – it can tolerate cold and needs a period of dormancy over winter

Watering

- Bonsai need careful watering: neither too frequent nor too infrequent/little. Check daily with the back of your hand to see if the soil surface is damp or dry; if dry, water immediately.
- Water thoroughly but carefully. Bonsai soil is dense; if you're not careful, all the water will run off. If you water too heavily, all the *soil* will run off. Either:
 - Make three light passes with a watering can, leaving a minute in between each pass; or
 - Dunk the bonsai in water to just below the pot rim, and let the water rise through the soil.
- Ensure that all water not absorbed by the soil can drain out of the pot, to prevent root rot.
- If you accidentally let the soil dry out, be careful not to overcompensate by over-watering.

Other care

- To survive, bonsai need: water, light, air-flow, and protection from pests / disease.
- To thrive, bonsai need: fertilising, cleaning / weeding, pruning / trimming, wiring, and occasional repotting.
- If you are unsure about your tree's needs, discuss with your bonsai specialist.

Specialist needs: Call for help if

- Tree is visibly dying.
- Tree is becoming pot-bound, with roots visibly struggling for space.
- Tree has started to look more like an overgrown shrub than a bonsai.
- Wire has started to bite into the trunk (especially for outdoor bonsai).
- You'd prefer not to risk repotting, pruning or wiring the tree yourself.

Maintenance log

Date	Specialist name & contact details	Action(s) taken	Suggested next date