# 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:

1. Make three light passes with a watering can, leaving a minute in between each pass; or
2. 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

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