

Care guide – Ficus

The Ficus microcarpa ginseng, in fact, is nothing more than a plant of the ficus retusa species that has gone through an elaborate process so that its roots take on that aspect, reminiscent of ginseng. It is a tree that is highly appreciated by many lovers of this type of plant for its ornamental value.

Location

The ficus ginseng bonsai adapts perfectly both indoors and outdoors. In stores they are sold as indoor trees, but that doesn't mean they aren't used to being outdoors on the terrace, garden or greenhouse. Of course, it's important that once you've put it in one place, you don't continually move it. When bringing it indoors, choose a location and don't move it for at least two weeks. It is the minimum time it takes the plant to adapt to its new home. In general, the ficus ginseng bonsai needs light, so place it near a window, balcony, etc. would be your ideal place. From time to time you can consider taking it outdoors so that it is directly exposed to the sun, but always in spring and / or summer

Soil

Requires porous soils that do not form puddles. It doesn't resist drought, but excess water hurts much more. For this reason, I advise mixing pumice and kanuma at 50%. Another option is 70% akadama with 30% kiriyuzuna.

Watering

Not all bonsai need to have the soil constantly moist, or always have water in the tray. Ficus ginseng bonsai is one of them. When it comes to watering them, it's important that you only do so when the substrate needs it; that is, when you see the earth begin to dry up. Depending on the season, you should water

more or less. For example, in winter it tolerates well watering once every two weeks (unless you place it in a very "dry" area). In summer, you may need to water it once every 2-3 days or even everyday if it gets lots of sun.

Pruning

Pruning is necessary to give the tree a design. While it will tolerate you cutting an occasional branch every now and then, the best time to do this is in winter, when the sap is contained and so you don't make any "wounds" on the tree. You should prune the way you want, always trying to cut into two leaves after the branches have grown, and have between 6 and 8 leaves. Another way to prune them is by removing the leaves, that is, leaving the branches with fewer leaves. (which helps keep them small). If the cut you make leaves a large wound, you should use sealing paste to heal that area, mainly to prevent the plant's health from being compromised or affected by pests or diseases.

Wiring

Wiring is a technique that must be done carefully. There is a risk of getting into the bark, leaving a mark that will make it quite ugly. To avoid this, what you do is check on it to see if it marking the tree and remove the wires.

Repotting

In general, it should be repotted every two or three years, removing 1/3 of the roots and also trying to carefully eliminate dead, injured or malformed roots. E. It consists of changing the soil, cleaning it practically completely, trimming the roots a little and placing it in another pot with a basic soil mixture (akadama and some compost or enriched soil). As long as you don't cut the "mother roots", nothing will happen and this will help to grow and improve your bonsai appearance.