



## New Bonsai Enthusiasts: Tips to Do and Not to Do

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### DO:

All bonsai, with the exception of some tropical bonsai, must reside outside. However, sun tolerance varies by species.

When watering, if water doesn't drain readily, something may be wrong with your soil or drainage rate. More plants die from poor drainage than from over-watering.

On extremely hot or windy days, plants may dry out quickly and may require extra water or added humidity.

Inspect your trees daily for problems including insects, fungus, stress (ex., leaf burn, die back, or wilting) and to insure adequate watering.

Bonsai is a process. Realize that *everyone* loses trees. Be patient and enjoy the journey.

Become a student of bonsai. Participate in classes and workshops that teach proper tree development and structure. Learn how to analyze desirable bonsai characteristics. This knowledge will save you time and money in the future.

### DO NOT:

*Don't* purchase numerous trees quickly. Initially it's better to limit your new collection to 3-4 species and learn how to care for and develop your new trees properly. Save money and time by purchasing one developed bonsai rather than 3-5 starter trees.

*Don't* get discouraged. Follow what works for you. Bonsai is a mixture of horticulture and art.

Advice and practices can differ greatly between bonsai enthusiasts and professionals. Listen with a filter.

