



ALBUQUERQUE BONSAI CLUB

abqbonsaiclub.com 2017—The Year of Learning Together

A. Bringing Your Trees Out From Winter Storage--Connie Gardner

1. Watch the 10 day forecast, when no nights under 40° consider starting to bring out
2. Deciduous first: maples that are budding, then elms and others. Evergreen still dormant, and will be for a couple more weeks.
3. Do not put trees directly in the sun when bring them out. Acclimate in shade for a few days.
4. Deep soak in Super Thrive solution after bringing out. This will stimulate roots.
5. After repotting, do not fertilize for 3 to 4 weeks.
6. #1 issue for your trees when bringing out: WIND! Protect them!

B. How to Prepare Potential Show Trees--John Egert

1. Bring trees from winter storage onto benches. Clear away any surface trash and expose surface roots/nebari to sun.
2. Begin fertilizer regimen—very dilute at first, more frequently, less strong.
3. Deciduous—Expect a major flush of growth between now and the show
 - a. Examine Branches/Twigs
 - b. Any insects, scale/mealy bug
 - c. When tips of buds swell, and show green, begin trimming and repot if needed.
 - d. Remove wire from last year—are branches holding in place?
 - e. Examine structure and prune heavy limbs from top of tree.
 - f. Wire small branches if needed.
 - g. Allow new shoots to harden, then prune back to two leaves on elms
 - h. Trim center bud of three on maples
 - i. If long growth and large leaves flush out, remove biggest leaves continuing through growth flush.
4. Conifers
 - a. Clean out old, dead growth from interior
 - b. Remove large wire at least from last year—still holding?
 - c. If junipers are shooting, prune back to desired outline one branch at a time
 - d. Examine overall outline and structure
 - e. Use small wire to refine top and secondary branches
 - f. Become aware of 'pinching vs. 'pruning' controversy.
 - g. Check for pests—ants often indicate aphids. Also check for spider mites
 - h. When fertilizing, soak foliage too.

5. Get trees into good dose of sun while still cool. Even maples can tolerate sun until May.
6. Keep trimming growth beyond desired outline.

C. Kusamono--How to Prepare Accent Plants for the May Show--Elizabeth Fields

Bonsai are traditionally displayed in a Tokonoma; consisting of a bonsai tree, a scroll, and an accent plant. These represent men, heaven, and earth respectively.

Kusa: grass mono: think

Kusamono are an accent plant designed to complement a bonsai. They are seasonal, and frequently are composed of seasonal plants and grasses. Intent is to direct the eye back to the primary element. Containers can be a small pot, driftwood, stone or a moss ball. Plants should reflect the habitat of main tree, creating a more realistic sense of place in nature.

Suitable plants for accents

Allium (smaller varieties)	Androsace (rock jasmine, primrose)
Antennaria (daisy)	Aquilegia (columbine)
Armeria maritima 'Rubrifolia' (Red leaf thrift)	Blood grass
Asplenium trichomanes (small ferns)	Carex (sedge)
Davallia spp of ferns (Rabbit Foot Fern)	Hedra helix minima (Ivy)
Globularia repens (Blue button flowers)	Iris cristata (Dwarf Iris)
Iris gracilipes (Dwarf Japanese Crested Iris)	Miniature Hostas
Leptinella (Brass Buttons) groundcover	Ophiopogon (Mondo grass)
Oxalis (wood-sorrel)	Pennywort
Primula's (primrose)	Ranunculus crenatus (Buttercup)
Rhodohypoxis	Saxifraga (stonecrop)
Scutellaria (blue skullcap, mint family)	Sedum
Sempervivum (succulent, Hens and Chicks)	Smaller ferns
Sisyrinchium (Blue Eyed Grass)	Smaller grasses
Soledanella (Snowbell)	Thymes (smaller varieties, Minima)
Teucrium aroanium (Creeping Germander)	Violas