



Soil Mixes--"substrates"

Goals for bonsai soil mixes: free draining, appropriate moisture retention, aeration, fertilizer retention, affordable, attractive

Soil Mix Ingredients: Low moisture substrates: gravel

Mid-moisture substrates: scoria (lava rock), pumice, coarse sand (grit), diatomaceous earth, akadama, turface

High moisture substrates: organics; peat, bark, coconut fibers

Other soil mix considerations:

- larger particles hold more air
- smaller particles hold more water
- too many small particles, aeration is lost
- too many large particles, root dehydration risk increases
- coarse substrates don't hold fertilizer well, fines hold fertilizer better
- tall pots actually dry out faster, small pots dry out faster
- New Mexico is more arid than Japan, California and New England

Wayne's Formulas:

1. For tropicals/azaleas	3/4 organic, 1/4 inorganic
2. Maple, hornbeam, elm	2/3 organic, 1/3 inorganic
3. Pyracantha, holly, boxwood, cotoneaster	1/2 organic, 1/2 inorganic
4. Fir, spruce, cypress, larch, cryptomeria, cedar	1/3 organic, 2/3 inorganic
5. Juniper, pine, oak, desert plants	1/4 organic, 3/4 inorganic

Scott's Formula (from Andrew Smith, Golden Arrow Bonsai)

Pumice: 5 parts; Lava: 2 parts; Gravel: 2 parts; Charcoal: 1/2 part; Pine Bark: 1/2 part. This mix was reported on page 26 of Bonsai (American Bonsai Society), vol 50#4 (2016). Two other articles in Bonsai, vol 48#4 (2014) and vol 49#1(2015) report careful measurements of soil characteristics which allow soils to be formulated for different climates and trees.

Bonsai Recordkeeping: Joann

Suggested tabs for a physical notebook: Soils, Pest control, Fertilizers - What & When, Plant Species / Care & Training, Styles & Ratios, Pictures, My Trees, Notes / Misc.

For a digital option visit: <http://andrewnicolle.com>

Cleaning Bonsai Pots: Jim

- 1 part vinegar to 4 parts water. Submerge empty pot for an hour or so. When removed from the solution, gently wire-brush the pot to remove the stubborn mineral deposits.

- 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Soak the empty pot for 24 hours. Following this, the pot should be soaked in water for an hour to make sure the bleach has been completely removed. Gently wire-brush the pot to remove the stubborn mineral deposits.
- Cleaning only the outside of the pot to temporarily get it ready for a show: wipe the outside of the pot with a sponge soaked with vinegar. Camellia oil, walnut oil, baby oil, ballistic oil, Vaseline, or WD-40 can also be used. All the above options will only temporarily hide the mineral buildup.
- **Factors that make your pots get dirty faster:**
 - Tap water and well water may contain mineral salts.
 - Fertilizer speeds up mineral salt buildup.
 - Unglazed pots get dirty faster (more porous than glazed).

Club Apparel

- Logo Golf Shirts, <http://www.sanmar.com>, order through Susan Burns at 505-220-0768 or via email at burnssusan@iCloud.com. She will hold orders and submit one time to save shipping.
- Happy Coats and other stuff, Japanese Style, www.JapaneseStyle.com

Master Class Opportunities

1. Ted Matson, Curator of Huntington Bonsai Collection
2. Todd Schlafer, Denver based, apprenticed with Ryan Neil <http://www.firstbranchbonsai.com/>
3. Owen Reich, Nashville based, studied at Kouka-en (Bjorn Bjorholm) <http://tupelobonsai.com/> Owen will be in Albuquerque the weekend of 4/15

Conference/Show Opportunities

Huntington Collection Bonsai-a-thon, Feb. 25/26 Group Road Trip?

Bill will get us a "behind the scenes" tour of their nursery

Brussels Bonsai Annual Rendezvous, May 25-28, Memphis, TN www.BrusselsBonsai.com

February Meeting:

Ramification--a 5 syllable word describing the branching of our trees, particularly applied to deciduous trees.

Bring a tree that you would like help working on. If you have a turntable, bring it too.

We'll also begin planning for our show over Mother's Day weekend.