Seasonal Care of
Bonsai

The chart on the back of this page shows the best times of year to train and repot your bonsai. If you don't see a particular plant listed here, follow the guidelines for the same type of tree; for example, a broad-leafed deciduous tree would be treated much like a maple; a conifer, like a pine.

For details about all of these operations, consult a good book on bonsai. Fertilizing should be done monthly except in the hottest weather and winter months.

The four seasons are defined as follows:
• **Spring:** March, April, May
• **Summer:** June, July, August
• **Autumn:** September, October, November
• **Winter:** December, January, February
When range of seasons is given such as Winter-Spring, it means that the operation can be done in late (February) or early spring (March).

Please turn the page for more information. ⇨

Key to Reference Numbers

(1) Pinch after flower dies, before new buds harden.
(2) Prune after flowering, before leaves appear.
(3) Bend after leaves are full size but while branches are still limber.
(4) Repot before new shoots appear.
(5) Repot just before flowering.
(6 Repot after flowering, before leaves open.

Genus	Pinching	Pruning	Wiring & Bending	Potting & Root Pruning
Abies (Fir)	Spring	Spring – Summer	Anytime	Spring (4)
Acer (Maple)	Spring – Summer	Spring	Spring – Autumn (3)	Winter – Spring
Bamboo	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Don't wire	Spring – Summer
Camellia	Summer – Winter (1)	Summer – Winter	Summer – Winter	Spring – Summer
Cedrus (Cedar)	Spring & Autumn	Anytime	Anytime	Spring (4)
Celtis (Hackberry)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Autumn (3)	Winter – Spring
Chaenomeles (Flowering quince)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Anytime	Spring
Chamaecyparis (False cypress)	Spring & Autumn	Anytime	Anytime	Anytime (4)
Cornus (Dogwood)	Summer – Winter (1)	Summer	Spring – Autumn	Spring
Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer
Crataegus (Hawthorn)	Summer (1)	Summer	Spring – Autumn (3)	Spring
Cryptomeria	Spring & Autumn	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring (4)
Cupressus (Cypress)	Spring & Autumn	Anytime	Anytime	Spring (4)
Diospyros (Persimmon)	Summer – Autumn (1)	Summer	Spring – Autumn (3)	Spring – Summer
Fagus (Beech)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Autumn (3)	Spring
Fraxinus (Ash)	Summer – Autumn	Summer – Autumn	Spring – Autumn (3)	Spring
Ginkgo (Maidenhair tree)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Anytime	Spring
Hedera (Ivy)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Anytime	Spring
Ilex (Holly)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring
Jasminum (Jasmine)	Spring & Autumn	Summer – Autumn	Spring – Summer	Spring – Autumn
Juniperus (Juniper)	Spring & Autumn	Anytime	Anytime	Spring (4)
Larix (Larch)	Spring & Autumn	Anytime	Anytime	Winter – Spring
Malus (Crabapple)	Summer	Summer	Spring – Summer (3)	Spring – Autumn
Picea (Spruce)	Spring	Spring – Summer	Autumn – Winter	Spring
Pinus (Pine)	Spring	Summer	Autumn – Winter	Spring
Prunus (Flowering fruits)	Summer – Autumn (1)	Winter – Spring (2)	Spring – Summer (3)	Winter – Spring (6)
Punica (Pomegranate)	Spring & Autumn	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer
Pyracantha (Firethorn)	Spring & Autumn	Spring – Summer	Anytime	Spring
Quercus (Oak)	Spring & Autumn	Summer – Winter	Spring – Autumn (3)	Spring
Rhododendron (Azalea)	Summer	Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer
Salix (Willow)	Spring – Summer	Summer	Spring – Summer (3)	Spring – Summer
Tamarix (Tamarisk)	Spring – Summer	Autumn	Spring – Summer	Spring (4)
Taxus (Yew)	Summer	Summer	Summer – Autumn	Spring (4)
Thuja (Arborvitae)	Spring & Autumn	Anytime	Anytime	Spring (4)
Tsuga (Hemlock)	Spring & Autumn	Anytime	Anytime	Spring – Summer (4)
Ulmus (Elm)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer (3)	Winter – Spring
Wisteria	Summer – Winter (1)	Summer – Winter	Spring – Summer (3)	Spring
Zelkova (Sawleaf zelkova)	Spring – Summer	Spring – Summer	Anytime	Winter – Spring