

# Bonsai – Penjing Culture (John Broderick Presentation 2-21-2026)

## Getting started with trees collected from the garden

- Seedlings – 1 year or less
- Saplings – 1-3+ years
- Mature - 3+ years (depends on the species)
- Nursery stock – 1-7 years

## Initial development

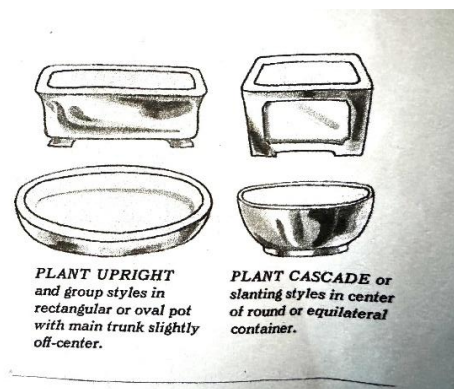
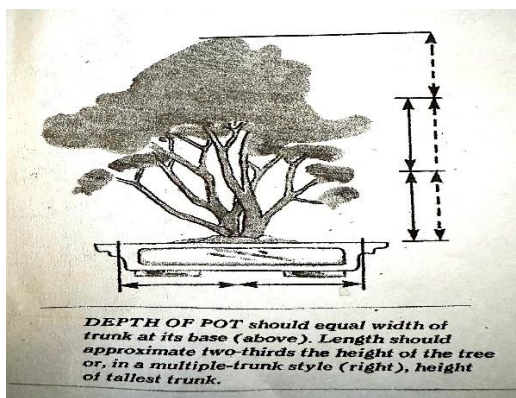
- Develop in place or a garden bed: Consider annual root pruning
- Develop in a container or wood box: consider annual root pruning
- Growing medium: a potting soil that drains well. Mix in 20% compost

## Maintenance

- Regular watering is essential
- Pest control: light (summer) horticultural oil and soap spray
- Fertilizer: liquid organic (Superthrive\*) or compost once a month
- Training: pruning goals should- control excessive growth; develop desired style with directional pruning
- Branch training: wiring, guying, weighting

## Final container

- Consider size and style
- Growing medium should be a special 'bonsai soil mix' but about 10-15% compost, may be added
- Regular watering is critical. Summer heat may require 2 waterings/day.
- Afternoon shade in summer months is very helpful





Formal upright



Informal upright



Slanting



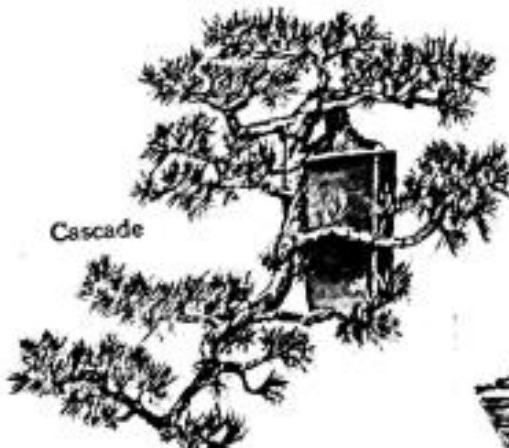
Clump



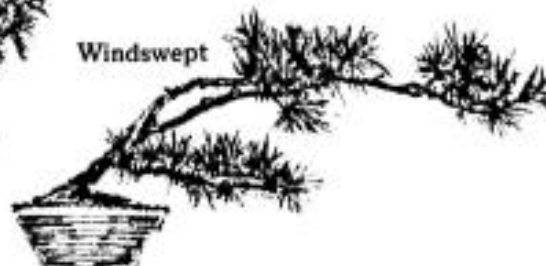
Forest, grove, or group planting



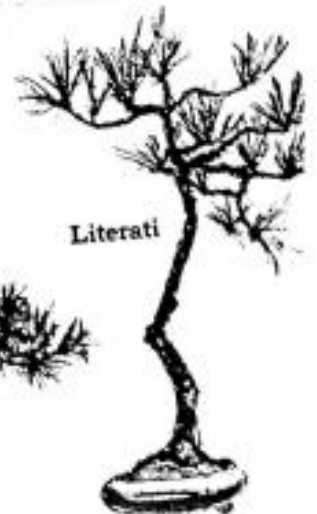
Raft



Cascade



Windswept



Literati

## **Recommended native species for Bonsai – Penjing**

Taxodium distichum (bald cypress)

Taxodium ascendens (pond cypress)

Pinus echinata (shortleaf pine)

Pinus glabra (spruce pine)

Juniperus virginiana (eastern red cedar)

Ulmus crassifolia (cedar elm)

Ulmus alata (winged elm)

Carpinus caroliniana (american hornbeam)

Crataegus marshallii (parsley hawthorn)

Crataegus aestivalis (may haw)

Viburnum dentatum (arrowwood viburnum)

Ilex vomitoria (yaupon holly)

Hamamelis (witch-hazel)

Acer rubrum (swamp red maple)

Liquidambar styraciflua (sweet gum)

Betula nigra (river birch)

Celtis-occidentalis (hackberry)

Rhus copallina (winged sumac)

Prunus mexicana (mexican plum)