

EDUCATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Societies

Join your nearest club or society! Even if you can't attend meetings, even if you can't attend shows, just join! Bonsai is an 'independent' activity, but an individual's success relies heavily on the community for:

- Sharing of knowledge and experiences
- Overcoming obstacles like local weather, disease, fungus, insects, etc.
- Discussing aesthetics and design, or simply learning how to wire and prune
- Identifying trustworthy sources for material and supplies
- Meeting your next mentor, or becoming a mentor
- Finding a friend who can water your trees when you're away or help repot that heavy tree

A bonsai hobbyist without a society, club, or community learns at a much slower rate, and at a higher cost

Online Courses, Resources, Blogs, & Forums

Bonsai Empire – High quality courses are available from beginner to advanced levels, and all are highly recommended.

Mirai Live – Subscribing to Mirai Live gives you access to Bonsai Mirai's ever-growing video library with a seemingly infinite amount of instructional information and discussion. In our view, subscription is mandatory for the serious hobbyist. Check out these two free samples:

Spring Fundamentals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OanGfoSJDKE>

Fall Physiology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuiEocc9AHo>

Bonsai-U – An education opportunity not to be missed, with video tutorials and invaluable Q&A sessions offered by bonsai professional Bjorn Bjorholm of Eisei-en.

Tree House Bonsai – Join Adam Jones as he shares his experiences and rare insights from inside the world of Japanese bonsai. Adam offers excellent instructions as he works on fine bonsai specimens at his bonsai nursery in Japan, and guides us through everything from the creation of his garden to terminology and pot appreciation! An essential learning opportunity!

Bonsai Tonight – A must-follow blog by Jonas Dupuich with regular posts that touch on all topics related to bonsai with clarity and precision.

Crataegus – Michael Hagedorn's blog is another obligatory read! Learn, discover, but also simply enjoy a moment while traveling through Michael's mind and thought process.



Bonsainut – Like all online discussion forums in every field, a bulk of the content consists of anecdotes, opinions, and hearsay. This is a great place to get familiar with the language of bonsai and explore, ask questions, or just think out loud about all of the various topics and sub-topics that make up the multifaceted and all-encompassing world of bonsai.

Facebook – With a quick search, you will likely find a Facebook group associated with your local society, or maybe one for your city or province.

Japanese Bonsai Pots Blog – This is an excellent place to get acquainted with Japanese Bonsai pottery and learn from Michael Ryan Bell about their history, shapes, colors, and makers!

Books & Magazines

Overview of Bonsai

- *The Little Book of Bonsai* – Jonas Dupuich
- *Bonsai Heresy* – Michael Hagedorn
- *Principles of Bonsai Design* – David De Groot
- *International Bonsai Magazine* – William Valavanis

Books that address species, varieties, or types

- *Bonsai with Maples* – Peter Adams
- *Bonsai Maples* – Andrea Meriggioli (read Adams' *Bonsai With Maples* first)
- *The Art of Flowering Bonsai* – Peter Adams
- *Bonsai Today Master Series: Junipers*
- *Bonsai Today Master Series: Pines*

Propagation

- *The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation* – Dirr and Heuser

Youtube

- **Saruyama Bonsai** – Peter Warren
- **Bonsai Mirai** – Ryan Neil
- **Eisei-En** – Bjorn Bjorholm

Podcasts

- **Asymmetry** – Ryan Neil from Bonsai Mirai
- **Bonsai Network Podcast** – Bjorn from Eisei-En
- **Bonsai Wire** – Jonas Dupuich, Michael Hagedorn, Andrew Robson