

Basic Bonsai Tree Care ~ Cotoneaster (Lucidus)

What is Bonsai?	Bonsai is the reproduction of trees in miniature. This art form has been practiced in Japan and China for centuries. Since Bonsai are grown in pots and not in the ground, they are solely dependent on you for their care. If cared for properly, your tree will live for years to come, increasing in beauty as it matures.
About Your Tree:	The Cotoneaster is a tree that is native to northern Asia. It is a deciduous tree with long, spreading branches. It's small oval dark green leaves will change in the Fall to yellow, orange and red. In early June, it will bloom small pale pink flower clusters and dark pom fruit will follow. These fruit will ripen in the Fall.
Placement:	Cotoneaster prefer full sun and should be kept outside. Protect the tree during the winter, once temperatures drop below freezing, by keeping it in a garage or shed or burying it up to the lowest branch in mulch. During this time, the tree is in its dormant state and does not require sunlight.
Watering:	Water when necessary. The soil should be slightly moist. If your bonsai is in full sun, that may mean every day. Watering should be done in a manner that doesn't disturb the soil. Less water is needed in colder times, but don't let the soil dry out. In the cold season, you could water as little as every two weeks. Don't overwater the tree or it can cause root rot.
Notes:	During the cold months when your tree is indoors, it's a good idea to place it in a shallow tray filled with a layer of gravel and water to provide extra moisture around the tree.

These are basic care guidelines to get you started. There are many fine books and other resources available to help you take care of your Bonsai as it matures. I hope you enjoy your new bonsai tree!

Josh

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Bonsai Artist/Owner



LUCKY 幸 BONSAI

330-475-6632  
LuckyBonsaiTrees@gmail.com  
www.Lucky-Bonsai.com