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LUCKY 幸 BONSAI

Bonsai Tree Care - Dwarf Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'seiju')

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| 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: DWARF CHINESE ELM <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'seiju | The Dwarf Chinese Elm tree is a deciduous tree native to eastern asia. It is an ornamental shade tree that is very hearty and easy to care for. The Chinese Elm has the unique ability to live either indoors or outside because it can survive in zones 4-9, however generally trees kept outside are healthier and happier trees. The leaves are dark green throughout the summer. In the fall they will change to yellow, orange, red and purple. |
| Placement: | The Dwarf Chinese Elm prefers full sun and plenty of water. Do not let the tree dry out during the summer time. The tree can also be fed a slow release fertilizer during the summer months only. If the sun is very intense during the summer, it's best to put it in partial shade, especially during the hottest weeks. Protect the tree during the winter by somehow protecting the roots. This is often done by keeping it in a garage, shed or unheated structure or burying it up to the lowest branch in mulch. In general, the tree is hardy to zones 4, however the roots are very shallow and therefore need to be protected so any way you can insulate the pot or root system is best in cold climates. Chinese Elm trees do best in USDA hardiness zones 4-9. |
| Watering: | Water regularly, twice-daily with shallower pots in hot, sunny locations. Less water is needed in colder times, but don't let the soil dry out. |
| Notes: | Chinese Elm bonsai are tough and resilient trees that like sun to partial shade. If keeping indoors, provide plenty of bright light and as much humidity as possible. The goal is to slow down the soil in the pot from drying too quickly. This can be done by placing your tree on a tray filled with rocks and water and spraying it with a spray bottle often or using a humidifier. If keeping outside, place in full to partial shade and do not let your tree dry out during the summer months. |

These are basic 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! Please feel free to ask me questions!

~Josh