

## Bonsai Tree Care ~ Elephant Jade (*Portulacaria afra*)

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:	<i>Portulacaria afra</i> , aka Baby Jade, Elephant's Food, Elephant Bush and Dwarf Jade, is native to South Africa. It is a semi-evergreen tree that is extremely hardy, fast growing and loosely branched with thick oval green succulent leaves.
Placement:	<i>Indoors:</i> Baby Jade do well in full sun. If you see red tips developing on the leaves, your tree needs more sunlight. <i>Outdoors:</i> During the spring and summer, they appreciate being outside. If temperatures drop below 50 degrees at night, you should bring it inside.
Watering:	Water sparsely. Allow the soil dry out a little between watering. During the cold seasons, you can water as little as once every three weeks. Monitor the tree closely and water it as soon as you notice the soil is slightly dried out.
Notes:	Sometimes small white flowers will appear in the Fall, but only when the tree has suffered through droughts. Baby Jade are an excellent choice for the home or office. Just make sure they get enough light!

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

JOSH  
OLDHAM  
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Bonsai Artist/Owner



LUCKY 幸 BONSAI

330-475-6632

LuckyBonsaiTrees@gmail.com

www.Lucky-Bonsai.com