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LUCKY 幸 BONSAI

Bonsai Tree Care - Fukien Tree (*Carmona retusa*)

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: Fukien Tea (<i>Carmona retusa</i>)	The Fukien tea tree is an evergreen tree, native to Southeast Asia, with glossy green leaves with little hairs on them. This tree flowers regularly with small white blooms. As the blooms age, they will turn into tiny round fruits. The fruits will appear in early summer and may be red, black or green in color.
Placement:	<i>Indoors:</i> Place in a well-lit location. Fukien tea need sunlight every day but does not do well in full unprotected sun. <i>Outdoors:</i> Fukien tea can tolerate from sunny to shady. They need natural light, but don't need full sun. These trees ideally prefer zones 10 and 11 and need protected when temperatures drop below 60s.
Watering:	Fukien tea prefer humidity, warmth and moist soil that is well-drained. It's best to allow the soil to dry slightly between watering. Don't overwater the tree or it can cause root rot. If you notice the leaves are shriveling, water it right away. If you under-water this tree, the leaves will blacken and fall off. If this happens, keep taking care of your tree because normally the tree will regrow its leaves.
Notes:	The Fukien tea tree is best for someone with experience. They can be challenging to take care of, but are worth the work. The best tip I can give with Fukien Tea is to keep it out of bright sunlight. One hour of direct sunlight per day is plenty..and that should NOT be at noon. Early morning sun for an hour and then hidden in a humid mildly shaded area is ok. The tree prefers dappled sunlight..filtered light. The tree likes humidity but not watered all the time...water it thoroughly and completely and then place it in an area where it will take it some time to dry out and then water it again before it is completely dry...just after the top 1/2 inch or so of the soil dries out. I have a place outdoors near ferns where there is dappled light and high humidity and the trees really do well there. If kept indoors, provide a humidity tray and spray with a spray bottle to increase humidity.

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