



Bonsai Tree Care - Tiger Bark Ficus (*Ficus 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: Tiger Bark Ficus (<i>Ficus retusa</i>)	The Tiger Bark Ficus is a variety of fig tree, native to Southeast Asia. This tree grows oval shaped dark green leaves and has unique large exposed aerial roots that look like tree trunks. Also known as: Taiwan Ficus, Indian Laurel Fig or Banyan Fig. Depending on your variety of tree, you can expect to have flowers bloom occasionally during the summer months.
Placement:	<i>Indoors:</i> Tiger Bark ficus love light, place in indirect light and avoid direct sunlight. These trees grow in moist dry climates, so you want to be sure you keep it out of any drafty areas. <i>Outdoors:</i> Tiger Bark Ficus enjoy being outdoors when it is warm. Feel free to bring it outside in the summer months. Again, find a place with indirect sunlight. Bring it inside if temperatures drop below 50 degrees.
Watering:	Tiger Bark Ficus prefer humidity, warmth and moist soil that is well-drained. Never allow the soil to dry, water it before it dries out. An attached humidity tray will help to keep the tree watered appropriately. Consider misting it every few days to help with the humidity. Keep it moist in the summer and water slightly less in the winter.
Notes:	The Tiger Bark ficus makes for a wonderful beginner bonsai as it takes little maintenance. It can survive over-watering or under-watering occasionally. It is a very hardy and forgiving 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. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you have questions. I hope you enjoy your new bonsai tree!

Josh