

Bonsai Tree Care ~ Zelkova Serrata (Japanese Elm)

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 Zelkova tree is a deciduous tree native to Japan and China. It is an ornamental shade tree that is very hearty and easy to care for. It is an outdoor tree. The leaves are dark green throughout the summer. In the fall they will change to yellow, orange, red and purple.
Placement:	Zelkova prefer full sun during the morning and filtered sunlight in the afternoon. If the sun is very intense during the summer, it's best to put it in partial shade during the hottest weeks. If it's exposed to hot afternoon sun, it may experience leaf-burn. Protect the tree during the winter by keeping it in a garage or shed or burying it up to the lowest branch in mulch. Zelkova do best in USDA hardiness zones 5-8.
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. Don't overwater the tree or it can cause root rot.
Notes:	Zelkova bonsai are highly resistant to common diseases. Roots that show up above soil level should be covered with a thin layer of soil to help them mature into thicker roots. These trees are very fragrant when the leaves are green during cold weather.

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!

Josh

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Bonsai Artist/Proprietor



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