



THE SCHOOL
OF BONSAI

BONSAI INTERMEDIATE HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed for students of The School of Bonsai who have completed the Beginner's Course and wish to further their knowledge.

It has been compiled with the invaluable input of Mr Clinton Nesci.

SYLLABUS - INTERMEDIATE COURSE

TERM 1

WEEK 1

Summer Report

- ❖ How did Plants Fare in the Heat?
- ❖ Plant Rescue

Sacrifice Branches - When, Why & How to Grow Them

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 2

Plant Profile - Lantana

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling

Air Layering Part II - What to do when Roots Appear

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 3 – Soes/Companion Plants

- ❖ Which Plants are Suitable
- ❖ How to Construct Them
- ❖ Which Pots to Use
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 4 - Rock Plantings

- ❖ Which Plant and Rock to Use
- ❖ Putting it all Together
- ❖ After-care
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 5 – Plant Profile - Jade

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Advanced Wiring

- ❖ Wiring Recap
- ❖ Direction of Wire
- ❖ Tips for Perfect Wiring
- ❖ Demonstration

WEEK 6 – Root Exposed Style

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for this Style
- ❖ How to Start
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 7 – Root-over-rock Part II – Review Last Year's Plant

- ❖ The Best Way to Unwrap Them
- ❖ After-care
- ❖ Where to from Here?
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 8 – Displaying a Bonsai at Home or in an Exhibition

- ❖ Guidelines and tips on how to use display tables, mats and Soes with your Bonsai
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 9 – Collecting Trees

- ❖ What to Dig for
- ❖ What Tools are Required
- ❖ How to Prepare Collected Trees
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

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TERM 2

WEEK 1 - Trees with Autumn Colour & Autumn Jobs

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 2 - Plant Profile – Camellia

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Potting Mixes

- ❖ What to Use
- ❖ Fundamentals of Soil for Bonsai
- ❖ Different Potting Mediums
- ❖ Should Mixes Vary According to Species?

WEEK 3 - Plant Profile - Australian Native Plants Revisited

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 4 - Let's Build a Rock

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 2 (CONT)

WEEK 5 - Refining Pots & Tool Maintenance

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 6 - Tree Style – Weeping

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 7 – PUBLIC HOLIDAY – (NO CLASS)

WEEK 8 - Tree Style – Miniatures

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 9 - Developing Trees in the Open Ground for Bonsai

- ❖ How to
- ❖ Tools Needed
- ❖ How Long Should They Stay in the Ground?
- ❖ Is it Practical?
- ❖ Workshop

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SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 3

TERM 3

Week 1 - Plant Profile – Corokia & Serissa

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 2 - ~~Raffia~~ Clump Style

- ❖ How to Prepare it
- ❖ Why Use it?
- ❖ How to Apply it
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 3 - ~~Tree Style – Clump Style~~ Winter Nasties

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 4 - ~~Plant Profile – Chinese & Japanese Quince~~ Natives

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 3 (CONT)

WEEK 5 - ~~Problem Trees~~ Windswept

- ❖ How to find a better tree within the tree
- ❖ Students' Problem Trees to be Discussed
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 6 - ~~Video Night~~ Metasequoia & Taxodium

- ❖ Kevin Wilson, European Bonsai Artist (60 minute duration)
- ❖ Workshop

WEEK 7 - ~~Critique~~ Forests & Landscapes

- ❖ Learn to Spot Problem Areas in a Series of Trees
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 8 - ~~Plant Profile – Metasequoia & Taxodium~~ Display Day & Night

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 9 – Plant Profile – Gingko

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

~~Striking Large Cuttings~~

- ❖ Demonstration

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SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 4

TERM 4

Week 1 - Plant Profile – Crab Apples

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Penjing (*Guest lecturer*)

- ❖ What is Penjing?
- ❖ History
- ❖ Styles

Week 2 - Grafting

- ❖ Approach Grafting
- ❖ Thread Grafting
- ❖ Root Grafting
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 3 - Plant Profile – Hornbeams

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 4 (CONT)

WEEK 4 (cont) - Tree Style – Broom Style & Ramification

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Different Types of Broom Style
- ❖ Building Ramification
- ❖ Demonstration

WEEK 4 - Grafting to Change Plant Varieties

(Guest speaker Ray Nesci)

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 5 - Plant Profile – Oaks & Liquidambar

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 6

Plant Profile – Azalea Sao Tome

- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Plaiting Trunks

SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 4 (CONT)

Week 7 – Plant Profile – Gardenia, Murraya & Crepe Myrtle

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 8 – Miscellaneous Plants for Bonsai

- ❖ Workshop

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