

August

- Do not neglect watering - this month can be very hot and dry. Keep rotating your bonsai so all parts of the tree are exposed to the sun equally. This will insure good healthy growth. Do not over-water. Too much water during the hot season could result in root disease problems with heat build-up in the container. If soil in the container is wet at the end of a hot day you could have drainage problems.
- Drastic branch pruning is to be avoided, particularly on flowering bonsai - you could lose next year's flowers by ambitious pruning. You can trim lightly and wire the smaller branches.
- For watering mame (very small) bonsai and accessory plants you can set them into a tray filled with either perlite or coarse vermiculite. Keep the perlite or vermiculite watered and your small plants will have sufficient moisture and stay cooler.
- Check trees often for wire damage. Don't unwrap (uncoil) wires from tree branches. You could break off a desired branch which may be difficult or impossible to re-grow. Instead cut the wire off in small coils which will easily drop off the branch. You can use the American made diagonal wire cutters or Japanese bonsai wire cutters.
- This is a good time for major pruning and wire training of pines and other conifers.
- If severe or drastic pruning is necessary on any of the genetic dwarf pine varieties make certain to give such plants winter protection, especially when temperatures drop below freezing.

TRANSPLANT/ROOT PRUNE:

- Buttonwood
- Tropicals
- Willow

BRANCH PRUNE:

- Birch
- Cedar
- riptomeria
- Jasmine - winter
- Sweetgum - after new growth hardens
- Witch Hazel - after the leaves harden

TRIM/PINCH NEW GROWTH:

- Apricot - trim long shoots
- Buttonwood
- Beech
- Birch
- Cedar
- Crabapple
- Hawthorn
- Hemlock
- Hornbeam
- Juniper
- Pine - All

LEAF PRUNE:

Maples, Pomegranate, Zelkova.

FERTILIZE:

Buttonwood, Plum, Rhododendron, Tropicals.

WIRE:

- Apple - after new shoots have become woody
- Crabapple - after new shoots have become woody
- Gardenia -as shoots become woody
- Hackberry - after new shoots harden
- Holly - new growth only - old wood too brittle
- Honey Locust - as new shoots harden
- Hornbeam - after new shoots harden
- Maples - all - after new shoots have hardened
- Mountain Laurel - after new shoots harden
- Pines - All
- Quince - Chinese
- Serviceberry - after new growth has become woody
- Azalea, Birch, Cedar, Cotoneaster, Cryptomeria, Cypress, Elaeagnus, Hawthorn, Juniper, Podocarpus, Privet, Sasanqua, Yew