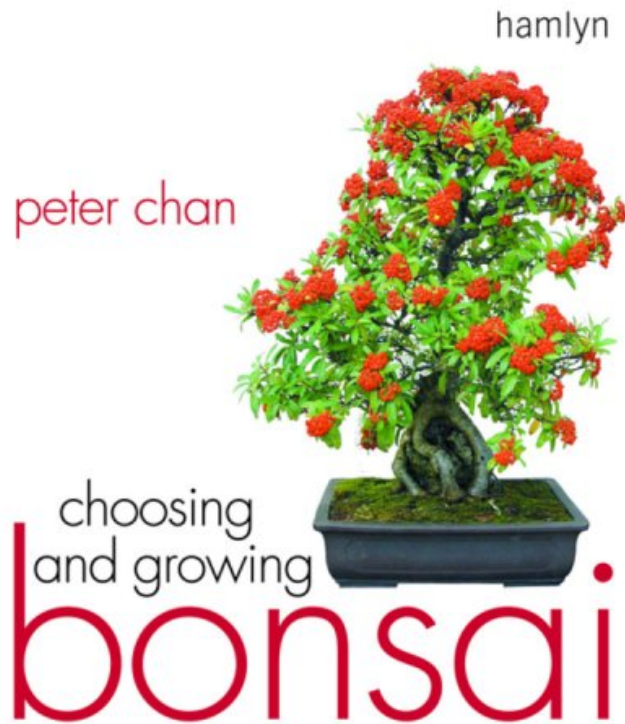


Choosing and Growing Bonsai

Peter Chan

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Peter Chan : Choosing and Growing Bonsai before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Choosing and Growing Bonsai:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on the care of bonsai By Ralph Busch There are many good bonsai books on the art of bonsais, the tools you use, how to shape and prune your trees, how to wire a tree, and how to get your tree to look like a bonsai. But there are very few bonsai books that cover the growing requirements of the trees. This book is really great for those who are interested in a variety of different trees. If you go to bonsai shows and you come home with several bonsais, whether they are starter trees or bonsais already in pots now you need to know how to keep them alive and even better get it to thrive. In this book there are over 80 different species and many of the species have several varieties. Each species has two pages devoted to it including two photos; most of them are taken by Peter Chan. One picture is of a perfect bonsai and the other is a close up - many times it is of the tree in a different season. "Where to keep them" is the first section and Peter talks about the area of the world the tree is from and the conditions it needs in the summer and winter. He includes information about sun/shade, zone and preferred temperature. This is very important information because each species is different and will not do well if they are given the wrong sun and temperature requirement. The section on "How to look after them" includes "Repotting" This section talks about the kind of soil each bonsais needs. He tells you how many parts of loam, peat, and sharp sand, or how many parts of Akadama soil, peat and sharp sand, etc. You can use your version of loam, peat or sharp sand, but

you will know what percentage to use of each to use. Peter also talks about how often you should repot each bonsai and other things you should know before repotting your bonsai. Every bonsai is different and I look up every tree before I repot. After "Repotting" in the "How to look after them" section Peter talks about "Pruning and pinching", "Wiring", "Watering", and "Feeding". Each section is just for that species and very helpful. The last section is "Be aware!" This includes everything that can be trouble for that species. Sometimes it's the bugs that like it, or different diseases that species might be susceptible to or any other quirks of that species. He gives suggestions of how to avoid the problem and gives help on solving the problem. The contents of this book include the following: Introduction All about Bonsai Outdoor coniferous bonsai Outdoor broadleaved bonsai Outdoor flowering bonsai Indoor bonsai Looking after bonsai If you like having a variety of different species this book is for you. You can look up the different species or variety before you buy then and look up the ones you already have. I look up my bonsais in the spring and the fall to refresh my memory about the care of each tree for the next season and I always look up each bonsai before transplanting - reading the section on repotting before I start to repot any of my trees. I have a lot of bonsai books and this is of my favorite book on the care of bonsais, it is not the best book on techniques, but it does have some general information that is good, but not extensive. If you are satisfied with many trees of one or two species then you don't need this book. If you like to have a variety of different species this is the book for you!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent reference! By Boony I've gone through over 15 different bonsai books, but this one easily became my favorite. Why? QUICK, EASY, AND TO THE POINT! Many books go into such "encyclopedic" depth about things like wiring, pruning, potting, etc..... To be honest, for me that grows old so quick because I am more of a visual and tactile learner. I need to DO, more than READ, so books like that grow old quick and really do not work for me. This is an EXCELLENT source to get introduced to all the basics that you need to get started on this rewarding hobby (I am fairly new to this....one year). There is no such thing as "The Book" that you will ever need for bonsai, but Chan's book is interesting, well edited, awesome pictures of trees, which after all is what it's all about! But most importantly, it's easy and fun to read. I believe it guides the reader INTO certain aspects of bonsai, which will thus allow you to search out whatever topic or specimen interests you the most through other sources. With the web out there, there is a TON of information on bonsai, but I found this book (after going through MANY) a great source of inspiration. A+ of 4 people found the following review helpful. My First Bonsai Book By W.T. Hoffman Peter Chan's CHOOSING AND GROWING BONSAI was the first bonsai Book I bought. Filled with lovely photographs in full color, Mr. Chan does a great job delivering the basics of Bonsai horticulture to the novice. So, what's in this 8 inch by 7 inch, 208 page book? First, just a few pages on HOW TO BUY A BONSAI, with information about checking for good nabari (Surface roots), checking for plant health, and nursery vs. grocery store bonsai purchases. Then Mr. Chan devotes a page or two about INDOOR vs OUTDOOR bonsai. At the end of the book, there are various photos and descriptions on wiring, fertilizing, pruning, propagation, insects, correct environment, and repotting. If you need detailed information on any one of these areas, the book doesn't provide it. The book doesn't describe the styles of bonsai, ie informal upright, slanting, windswept, cascade, etc, nor provide information on bonsai history, or HOW-TO procedures for creating forests, root over rock, or other "advanced" info. If you need that info, find another book. What makes this book so superb for the price, are the profusion of full color, well photographed representations of some of the most beautiful examples of bonsai you'll ever see. All these trees are very old, well cared for masterpieces of the art form, and as such, "a picture is worth a thousand words". Since that is so true with a visual art like bonsai, you'll be miles ahead, just putting these images of perfected bonsai trees into your visual memory, rather than the relatively young, often poorly maintained bonsai trees I've seen in other books. The book's species are divided into outdoor coniferous, broadleaved and flowering varieties, and indoor varieties. A typical entry has the common name of the plant (LARCH), the Japanese name (Kara Matsu), and the Latin name (Larix). Each species will have two color photos, one full sized that shows the whole tree, and then a close up of the leaves, needles or cones. The article talks about WHERE TO KEEP THEM, HOW TO CARE FOR THEM, PRUNING, WIRING, WATERING, FEEDING, and a section that says BE AWARE! Also along the top, Mr. Chan tells you if the tree is HARDY, half-hardy or tender, if the tree is easy to keep, or challenging, if it flowers, fruits, or has some other quality like interesting bark, that is particularly interesting. HE COVERS 77 VARIETIES OF BONSAI TREE IN DEPTH, all with excellent photos, and care instructions. Included are varieties you seldom see in other bonsai books, like DAWN REDWOOD, ORANGE/LEMON, ANTARCTIC BEECH, and lots of cultivars like COMMON HORNBEAM, JAPANESE HORNBEAM, and KOREAN HORNBEAM. (A different entry for each cultivar!) He covers many cultivars of Japanese maple, fig tree, juniper, hackberry, etc. You MIGHT have a bonsai tree NOT included here, but it's unlikely. For the variety of trees covered, the beauty of the photographs, the succinct instructions, and the general layout, I just can't recommend this book enough. If you need a good general book on all the facets of bonsai care, supplement this book with Colin Lewis' BONSAI SURVIVAL MANUAL. Or, if you need more detailed info on a particular species, check out Peter Adam's JAPANESE MAPLES. Or, if you just collect indoor plants, you might enjoy PAUL LESNIEWICZ's INDOOR BONSAI. You'll find those author's names repeated on many bonsai books at . AND, you'll find other books by PETER CHAN as well. He's well respected, so you won't go far wrong this purchase, guaranteed.

Bonsai are both eye-catching and extremely popular-and this directory of more than 80 trees details their characteristics and explains how to look after them to get the best results. With stunning photography, and detailed instructions for choosing and growing a plant, it's ideal for both beginners and enthusiasts alike. There's advice on essential tools and getting started, on maintaining trees throughout the year, and on solving such frequently encountered problems as dropped or browning leaves. Techniques for nurturing and styling your plant will help you make the most of this horticultural art form, and guarantee that your tree stays healthy and beautiful for years to come.

About the Author Peter Chan set up Herons Bonsai - one of the country's most famous bonsai collections - in 1986. He has achieved a record tally of 21 Chelsea Gold Medals to date. Peter is also the author of five bestselling books about bonsai and has featured in numerous television programmes over the years.