

Ginkgo (Ginkgo Biloba) Bonsai Care

About The Ginkgo

The ginkgo is a deciduous tree with fan shaped leaves and a columnar silhouette in younger years, getting broader with age. The tree is indigenous to China and is considered a living fossil, dating back 270 million years.

Placement

Place ginkgo outside year round. They prefer a sunny position but young trees are better placed in semi-shade to avoid leaf sunburn. The ginkgo can endure frost but when it is planted in a bonsai pot the rootball should be protected from very low temperatures. In spring the new leaves appear quite late and in most cases then there will be no night frost anymore.

Watering

Ginkgos need a high volume of water during the growing months but must not be overwatered. Keep them slightly moist in winter.

Fertilizing

Begin fertilizing when buds begin to open. Use high nitrogen fertilizer in spring to make the tree grow long shoots, otherwise (especially older) ginkgo tend to only produce leaves on short shoots and ramification suffers. Use liquid fertilizer every week until the leaves turn yellow in autumn. Solid organic fertilizer can also be used. If the plant's vigor must be increased, use both.

Pruning & Trimming

New long shoots should be shortened to one or two leaves once five or six have grown. Larger cut wounds don't heal well so use cut paste and, if possible, avoid producing large wounds in the first place. Ginkgo trees can be wired at any time of the year since the branches are quite flexible.

Repotting

Younger trees can be repotted every year in spring with older ones calling for repotting every two to five years. Don't prune the roots too heavily; take no more than 25% of root mass off the tree when repotting.

Diseases, Insects & Other Pests

Ginkgo are very resistant to pests and are hardly ever attacked by insects or fungal diseases.

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