

Master Mori's Beginner Bonsai Starter Pack



Your First Steps on
the Path of the
Bonsai



A WARM WELCOME FROM MASTER MORI

"Ah, welcome, young gardener, to the way of the bonsai. This is not just a plant; it is a living, breathing companion on a journey of patience and care.

Perhaps you feel a little unsure, wondering if you can nurture a bonsai to grow and thrive. Fear not. Every great journey begins with small steps, and even the grandest of trees was once a humble seed.

This guide will be your first step into the art of bonsai, a path filled with patience, learning, and quiet victories.

"You see, bonsai is not about forcing growth. No, it is about creating an environment where the tree can express its natural beauty in miniature form. You are not merely a gardener — you are a steward of life, shaping a living sculpture with every gentle prune and thoughtful watering."

"Take your time, observe your tree, and listen closely. Mastery will come slowly, but with it will come great joy. So, take a deep breath and relax. Your tree's journey and yours are just beginning."

"In time, your bonsai will grow strong, as will you, for the art of bonsai teaches patience, kindness, and the wisdom of silence."



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TOP 5 BEGINNER BONSAI SPECIES

FICUS (FICUS RETUSA)



- Tolerates various conditions and is forgiving if you make watering mistakes.
- Care: Bright, indirect light; water when soil is dry; avoid drafts.

DWARF JADE

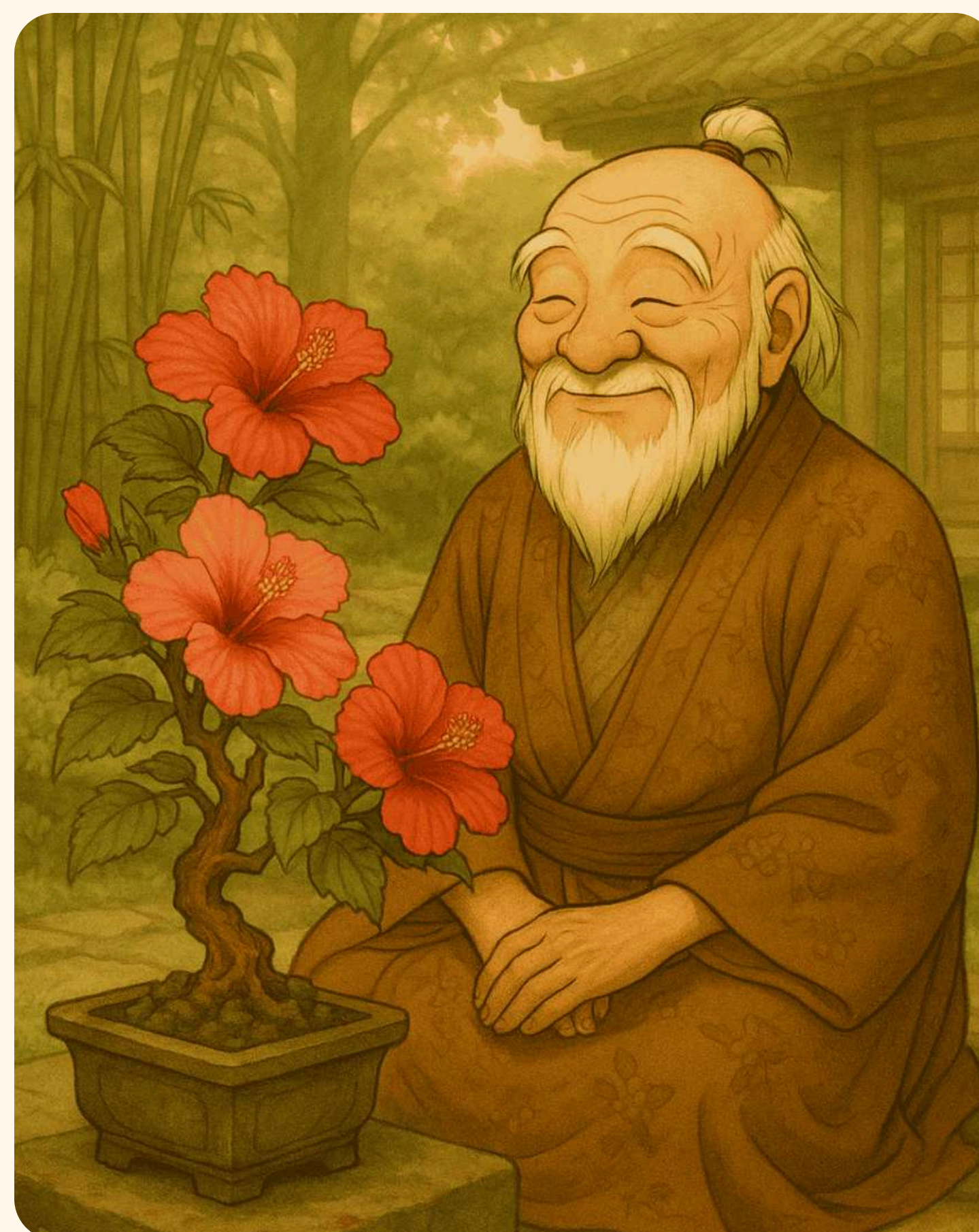


- Nearly indestructible; drought-resistant and low maintenance.
- Care: Full sunlight; water when the soil is dry; minimal care.

SERISSA



- Stunning white flowers, but requires more attention.
- Care: Bright, indirect light; keep soil moist; mist occasionally.



CHINESE ELM



- Hardy and adaptable, with a sophisticated look.
- Care: Moderate light; water regularly, but let soil dry between waterings.

JUNIPER



- Tough and adaptable, perfect for new bonsai gardeners.
- Light: Full sunlight (at least 4-6 hours/day) Let soil dry slightly between waterings, prefers cooler environments, avoid extreme heat.

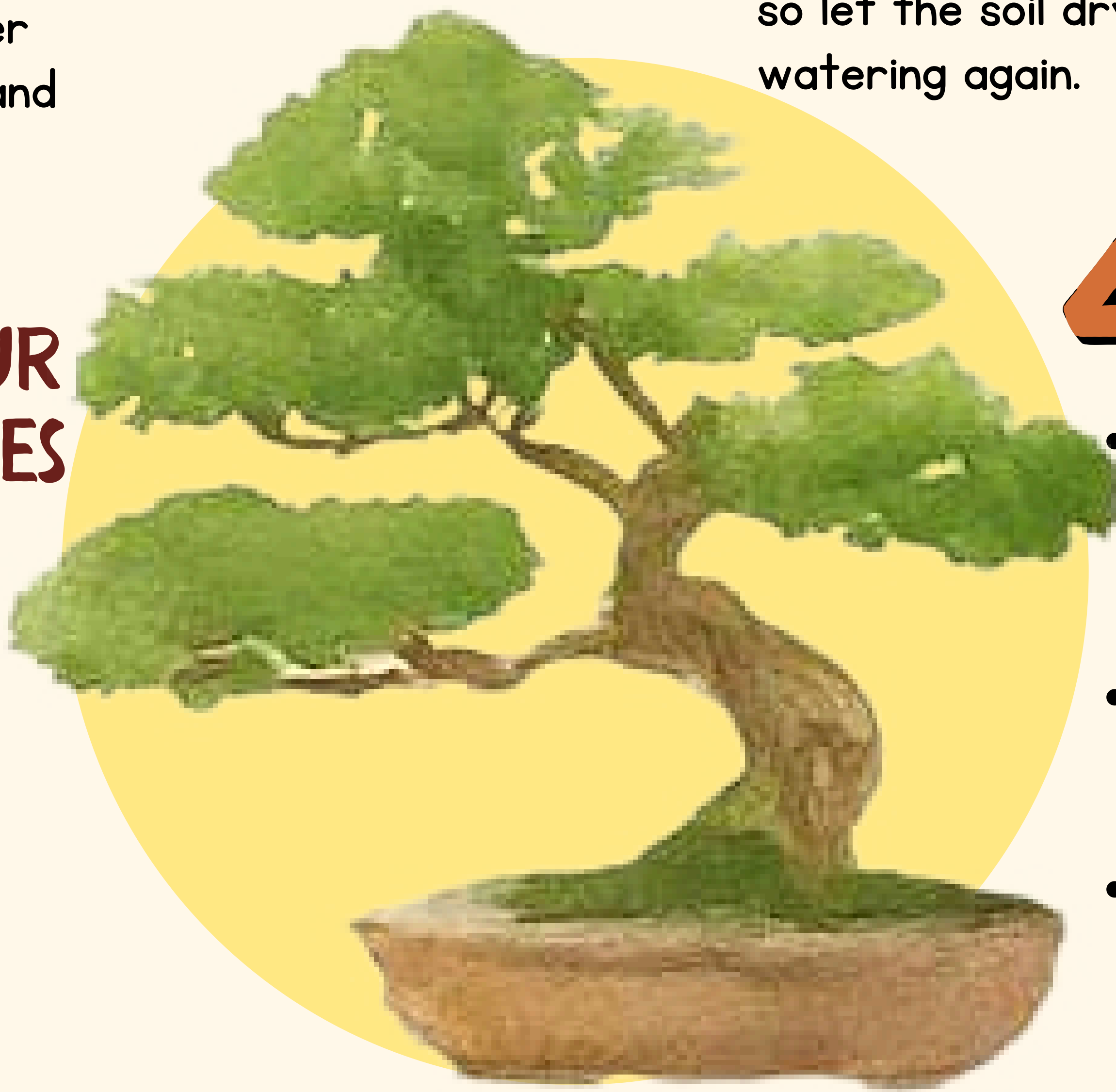
Master Mori's BONSAI QUICK START GUIDE

2 FIND THE PERFECT SPOT

- Indoors: Place your bonsai in a bright spot with indirect light. Avoid direct sunlight for most indoor trees.
- Outdoors: Choose a location with morning sun and afternoon shade. Juniper bonsai thrive outdoors and prefer full sunlight.

1 CHOOSE YOUR BONSAI SPECIES

Begin by selecting a beginner-friendly species that matches your environment and level of commitment. Consider options like Ficus, Dwarf Jade, Chinese Elm, or Serissa.



3 WATERING BASICS

- How to Check: Water your bonsai when the soil feels dry to the touch (1-2 inches down).
- How Much to Water: Water until excess begins to drain from the bottom. Ensure the pot has drainage holes.
- Tip: Over-watering can drown your tree, so let the soil dry out slightly before watering again.

4 PRUNING & SHAPING

- Pruning Basics: Trim branches to maintain shape. Always remove dead or unhealthy growth.
- Tools: Use sharp, clean pruning shears to avoid damaging the tree.
- Tip: Remove one branch from opposite pairs to create a natural, balanced shape.

6 OBSERVE & NURTURE

Spend time each day observing your bonsai. The more you connect with it, the better you'll understand its needs. Patience and consistent care will lead to growth and beauty.

5 POTTING & SOIL

- Soil Mix: Use well-draining bonsai soil or a mixture of akadama, pumice, and lava rock.
- Repotting: Repot your bonsai every 1-2 years to refresh the soil and prevent root-bound growth.

BONSAI BASICS

WATER, LIGHT & SOIL



WATERING YOUR BONSAI

- **Water When the Soil Is Dry:** Check the soil by sticking your finger about an inch deep. If it's dry, it's time to water.
- **Thorough Watering:** Water your bonsai thoroughly until the water drains out of the bottom of the pot. This ensures even moisture throughout the soil.
- **Avoid Overwatering:** Too much water can cause root rot. Ensure the pot has proper drainage to prevent water from sitting at the bottom.
- **Humidity:** Bonsai trees thrive in higher humidity. Consider placing your bonsai on a humidity tray or misting the leaves lightly.

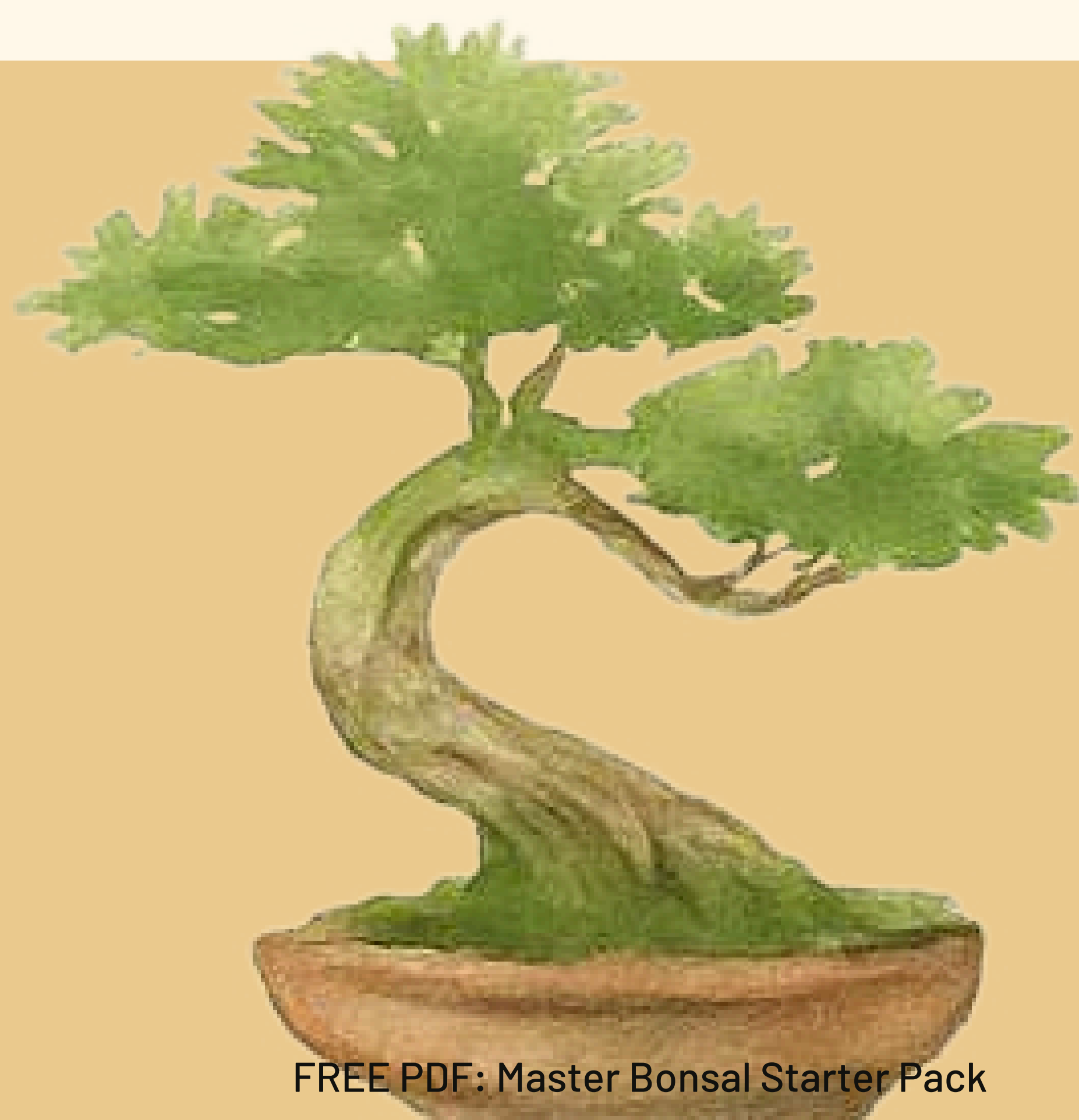
LIGHT REQUIREMENTS

- **Bright, Indirect Light:** Most bonsai species prefer bright, indirect light. Place your bonsai near a window with filtered sunlight.
- **Avoid Direct Sunlight:** Direct sun can burn the leaves. If your bonsai gets too much sun, move it slightly to a shadier spot.
- **Indoor vs. Outdoor:** Some bonsai thrive indoors (like Ficus), while others need outdoor conditions (like Juniper). Know your species' preference.
- **Rotate Regularly:** To ensure even growth, rotate your bonsai pot every few weeks so all sides receive equal light exposure.



SOIL FOR YOUR BONSAI

- **Well-Draining Soil:** Bonsai trees need soil that drains well to avoid root rot. Use a special bonsai soil mix or create your own with akadama, pumice, and lava rock.
- **Avoid Regular Potting Soil:** Standard potting soil retains too much moisture and can suffocate bonsai roots.
- **Repotting Every 1-2 Years:** As your bonsai grows, it will outgrow its soil. Repot your tree every 1-2 years to refresh the soil and trim the roots.
- **Soil Depth:** The depth of your soil should be sufficient for the size of your tree. A shallow pot with the right soil mix is key to healthy growth.



How to Prune a Bonsai Tree

Master Mori's Timeless Wisdom



"A wise cut today brings balance tomorrow."

Know Why You're Pruning

- Shape the tree for aesthetics
- Improve airflow and light penetration
- Encourage back budding and growth

Tools of the Trade (Mori-Approved!)



- Concave cutters (for clean healing)
- Pruning shears
- Tweezers (for fine work)

- Master Mori's Flow:
How to Prune Step-by-Step
1. Observe the Tree - Step back breathe, see its future form
 2. Remove the 3 D's - Dead, Damaged, and Diseased branches
 3. Thin Strategically - Allow light and air into the canopy
 4. Shape Gradually - Never cut more than 30% of foilage at once
 5. Encourage Back Budding- Trim back to nodes or leaf pairs

When to Prune

- Structural Pruning
 - Late winter or early spirng (before new growth)
- Maintenance Pruning
 - Throughout the growing season
- Never Prune:
 - Dormancy or extrem heat/cold

What to Prune (And What to Spare)

Branch Type	Reason
Crossing branches	Cause rubbing/ scars
Inward-growing	Crowds center of the tree
Downward growing shape	Weaken structure and aesthetics
Long branches breaking shape	Distrupt silhouette
Healthy, outward-facing tips	Wait until after bloom
Flowering tips (Serissa!)	Wait untill after bloom

Aftercare is Sacred

"Each cut is a conversation. Listen to your tree as much as you guide it."

Master Mori's Bonsai Watering Chart

General Watering Guidelines

Soil checking, as we do with our inner peace, is best done gently.
Water with love and patience. Listen to your bonsai—
it hums to you in its own way.

Bonsal Species	 Watering Frequency	 Soil Type	 Light Requirements	Additional Tips
Ficus	Every 2–3 days	Well-draining	Bright, sunlight	Keep the soil moist, but never soggy.
Dwarf Jade	Every 5–7 days	Well-draining	Moderate	Water only when soil feels completely dry.
Chinese Elm	Every 2–3 days	Well-draining	Moderate light	Keep soil moist, never soggy.
Serissa	Every 2–3 days	Moist, well-draining	Bright, indirect light	Mist occasionally for humidity.
Fukien Tea	Every 4–5 days	Well-draining	Bright, indirect light	Water when soil feels dry. Keep humidity high.
Juniper	Every 4–5 days	Full sunlight	Full sunlight	

Master Mori's Watering Wisdom

Patience is key. Just as the seasons change, so too does your bonsai's thirst. Listen to your tree, and it will tell you when it needs drink.



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MASTER MORI KINDLY ASKS: "RESPECT THE WORK, OR MAY YOUR BONSAI TURN
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