

# BONSAI TREE REPOTTING CALENDAR HOUSTON/GULF COAST AREA

By Michael McCluskey

A major repot involves lifting the tree from its container, removing roots and soil then planting the tree back into a container. This is typically done during the time of year when the tree is dormant or is least active. Repotting during this time reduces stress and aids in root development and the tree's ability to recover.

There are three very broad general categories of tree typically used in bonsai evergreens, deciduous & tropical/sub tropical.

Evergreens trees retain their growth of leaves, scales or needles. The optimum time to repot them is the winter months during slow growth or resting period. These are best repotted from November to January (there are a few exceptions).

Deciduous trees lose their leaves as part of an annual cycle. The optimum time to repot them is shortly before the emerging of new leaf buds (bud break). These are best repotted from January to March.

Tropical & Sub Tropical are trees that can actively grow all year long. The optimum time to repot them is when the low temperature is above 60 degrees and some types when the low temperature is above 70 degrees. These are best repotted from April to August.

There are various methods used in repotting from up potting, to partial and full repotting. The chart below was developed for partial or full repotting, where the roots system is being reduced and all or part of the soil is being removed.

The chart is in the form of a calendar starting in November and ending in August. This format walks through the repotting cycle listing trees by type and the optimum time for repotting. Please keep in mind that each tree is an individual so the right time to repot has to be determined by evaluating the needs of the tree.

The listing was developed for use in the Houston/Gulf Coast area. Changes in annual weather patterns could alter the indicated month(s) either earlier or later and not all trees used in Bonsai are listed. Repotting concerns such as the reason for repotting, repotting consideration, methods of repotting, after repotting care, how often to repot, repotting affects on flowering of fruiting trees, etc are topics for future articles and discussions.

I hope that this information creates great success and enjoyment for your Bonsai experience.

Enjoy-Learn-Share

**Michael McCluskey**

# REPOTTING CALENDAR

Prepared by Michael McCluskey 1-26-05 Revised 1-14-08/12-3-08/ 11-10-09

<b>TYPE TREE</b>	<b>REPOT TARGET</b>
Junipers	November- December
Quince Key – before flowering	Early December
Pines Key- needs cold weather after repotting	December -January
Azaleas (before flowering) Key - Suggest removing the unopened buds at time of repot, this is optional.	Early January
Yesterday Today Tomorrow Key–before new growth	January
*Wisterias	January
Fruit & Cumquats Key–after fruiting	January
*Chinese Elms, *Chinese Hackberry	Mid January- Mid February
*Crape Myrtles Key-when the tree is leafless	January-February
*Japanese Maples, *Elms *Trident Maples	January- February
Harland Boxwood	Mid February – March 1
Bald Cypress	February
Gardenia, Lantana, Rassel Dazzle	February -March
Ginkgo	Early March

Boxwoods (various)	March
*Sumerian Cherry Key-before new buds appear	Mid March to April 1
Oaks	March - April
Azaleas (after flowering) Key-Repot after blooming before the month of June	March - May
Camellia	April
Jasmine Key-After blooming	April-May
Tropical (general) Key-night temperatures should be above 60 degrees	May thru August
Bald Cypress	June – July (Second opportunity)
Crape Myrtle	July - August (Second opportunity)
Bougainvillea, Buttonwood, Ebony, Fukien Tea, Jaboticaba, Black Olive, Power puff	July – August (heat of summer)

(\*) Trees are typically repotted before bud break and leafless.