

WEeping STYLE BONSAI

Chapter 15

NOTES

I. OBJECTIVES

As a result of studying this section of the *Intermediate Bonsai Syllabus* and viewing audio visual presentations, or participating in other activities provided by an instructor, you will be able to:

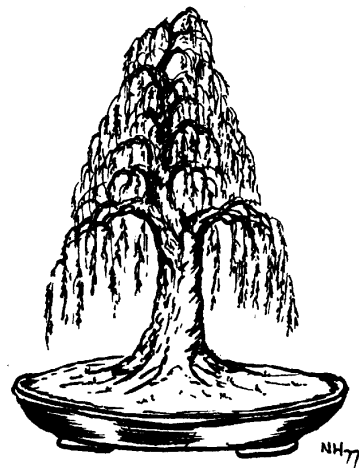
1. Define and describe the *weeping* style of bonsai.
2. Discuss the species of bonsai which are appropriate for the *weeping* style of bonsai.
3. Using an appropriate stock plant, demonstrate the creation of a *weeping* style bonsai.

II. GENERAL

- A. The *weeping* style bonsai is one of several styles which have relatively upright trunks.
- B. The *weeping* style bonsai is so named because the foliage hangs downward from the branches.

III. WEeping STYLE BONSAI DEFINED

- A. *Weeping* style bonsai may be in most any primary style: formal upright, informal upright, slanting or windswept, but most usually the informal upright configuration.
- B. *Weeping* style bonsai are so named because the majority of their foliage weeps, or hangs downward.



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IV. STYLING A *WEEPING* STYLE BONSAI

- A. Not all species of plant material lend themselves to the *weeping* style.
1. Most appropriate for this style are those species which grow naturally in a weeping fashion such as weeping willow, weeping beech.
 2. Others may readily be trained in the *weeping* style such as wisteria and rosemary.
 3. Forcing or attempting to force a species to grow in a manner in which it is not suited genetically will produce an unsatisfactory specimen and a frustrated owner.
- B. The most pleasing contour is for the trunk to be in the informal upright or slanting style with primary branches that project upward from the trunk then curve gently downward. The trunk and the primary branches can be trained by wiring. Secondary branching should curve downward and may be trained by wiring or with a mesh netting.
- C. One of the simplest ways of training the foliage of a specimen to grow in the *weeping* style is to place a fine mesh netting over the foliage and tying down the corners of the mesh. Existing foliage is forced gently down and new growth will often follow the line of the mesh. Any new growth which protrudes through the mesh can be pulled gently under the mesh. Light can enter through the mesh to nourish the plant.

IV. POTTING A *WEEPING* STYLE BONSAI

Potting of the bonsai follows the general rules for potting the primary style of the trunk (formal upright, informal upright, etc.).

V. SUMMARY

- A. *Weeping* style bonsai may be in most any primary trunk style.
- B. A principal considerations when styling a *weeping* style bonsai is to select a species which will happily grow in a weeping configuration.