

Having your very own bonsai garden at home is becoming an increasingly popular edition to people's homes. They add style and a sense of nature to your home, without being too time consuming, expensive and because of their miniature size; they do not take up too much room.

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> Although some people like to grow their own Japanese bonsai from seeds, there are also many benefits to choosing an already established or old bonsai. Having an old bonsai means you do not have to deal with nurturing the plant through its somewhat more demanding growing stage. This is great for people who have an interest in the bonsai design, but do not have the time or are not all that garden savvy.

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> Bonsai plants such as Sago Palm, Weeping Pussy Willow, and Shimpaku Juniper can sometimes require a lot of attention when they are growing. Choosing to use an established plant is great because rather than waiting for your bonsai to grow and having to worry yourself with things like bonsai fertilizer - you can get instant satisfaction in your bonsai design instead with an old bonsai.

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> If you do make the wise choice to get an established old bonsai rather than growing your own, you need to make sure you are buying a healthy tree. There are few key things for you to take note of and remember when selecting an old bonsai tree. This will ensure it is going to give you the desired results.

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> You need to look at the leaves to make sure they are a vibrant color. Generally, bonsai tree leaves will be a bright or deep green; however there are exceptions such as the Willow leaf which is white or silver. If the bonsai tree is unhealthy, the leaves will be brittle or even torn and damaged. It is important that leaves be full and malleable - as to create your own design, you need to use bonsai tools, such as pruners or wiring to create an interesting shape. If the leaves are unhealthy, even the best bonsai tools will not be able to make your tree look beautiful.

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> Another aspect of an old bonsai that indicates whether or not it is healthy is the branches. If the branches are broken or scratched at all, it could affect the plant's ability to thrive once you have re-potted it. Also you should be sure to look between the leaves for any signs of caterpillars or other pests such as aphids.

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> Finally, you need to ensure that before buying an old bonsai, there are signs of buds on the plant. To successfully make a beautiful bonsai design, you need an old bonsai that will continue to grow and develop - so that you have more to play with.