



2. Tree OF THE MONTH:

February
2016

BOUGAINVILLEA

BOUGAINVILLEA is a genus OF THORNY ornamental vines, bushes, and trees WITH FLOWER-LIKE SPRING LEAVES near ITS FLOWERS. THE BOUGAINVILLEA is a very ATTRACTIVE SPECIES FOR BONSAI ENTHUSIASTS, DUE TO THEIR ease OF TRAINING and THEIR radiant FLOWERING THAT can OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE year.

BOUGAINVILLEA were native PLANTS OF SOUTH AMERICA. IT IS accepted TO BE BETWEEN 4 AND 18 SPECIES IN THE BOUGAINVILLEA BUT THROUGH INTERBREEDING OF THE SPECIES THERE are currently over 300 HYBRIDS around THE WORLD. THE GROWTH rate OF BOUGAINVILLEAS varies FROM SLOW TO rapid, DEPENDING ON THE variety. THEY TEND TO FLOWER all year round in equatorial regions. ELSEWHERE, they are seasonal, WITH BLOOM CYCLES typically FOUR TO SIX weeks.



Bougainvillea bonsai by Erik Wigert

BOUGAINVILLEAS grow BEST in DRY SOIL in very BRIGHT FULL sun and WITH frequent FERTILIZATION; BUT they require LITTLE water once established, and IN fact WILL NOT FLOURISH if over-watered. THEY can be easily PROPAGATED via TIP CUTTINGS.



BOUGAINVILLEA are SUCCESSFULLY GRAFTED WHICH ALLOW FOR one tree TO carry numerous COLOUR bracts

INTERESTING FACT:

BOUGAINVILLEA have no FLOWER petals. THE FLOWER you may have THOUGHT you see is ACTUALLY a bract WHICH is in fact a leaf.

ALL BONSAI forms are POSSIBLE WITH THIS exotic SPECIES. BECAUSE THE PLANT has alternate leaves, IT is a GOOD SUBJECT FOR directional pruning. DO NOT BE afraid to remove many or ALL THE old branches when BEGINNING WITH your BONSAI. one OF THE BEST rules when TRYING to create a GOOD BOUGAINVILLEA BONSAI is TO create a GOOD SKELETON and work FROM there

