

# **CHECK LIST FOR PREPARING FOR A BONSAI SHOW**

## **TREE:**

- Trim your trees at least two weeks prior to the show.
- Remove dead leaves from the foliage.
- Make certain that the trees you want to show do not have any bugs, insects or disease that could infect other trees on show. Spray your trees for protection.
- Check for wiring on the trees - remove, replace or re-wire.
- Wash off any dust on the foliage. A gloss spray can be applied to the foliage for the duration of the show but must be removed immediately after the show.
- Feed your trees regularly so that they are in peak condition. Two weeks prior to the show feed the trees with a Fertilizer with high Nitrogen content to encourage the foliage to improve its colour.
- Pot your tree from its growing container into the show pot. This is only done if the roots are in good condition and the tree is healthy. Normally bonsai are kept in their show pots.
- Disguise unsightly blemishes.

## **LANDSCAPING:**

- Remove weeds and foreign grasses, dead leaves, pieces of compost etc.
- Trim the moss if required to remove seed stalks.
- Remove dead or rotting moss and replace with fresh material.
- Trim ground cover if used.
- Remove Fertilizer cakes from the landscape and replace after the show.
- Build up the soil level in the pot if required.
- Replace existing grits or sand with clean material.
- Close open root gaps with soil or landscaping grit.
- Make certain that if rocks are used they are planted and are not loosely placed on the soil.

## **POTS:**

- Mineral deposits on pots must be removed. If chemical substance used protect your soil so that none of the chemical is leached into it.
- Clean pots with a household detergent and water. Wipe dry and then oil with a furniture, baby or cooking oil. (White Burmese Teak Oil is very good, as it is water repellent.)

## **DISPLAY STANDS:**

- Check for breakages and repair if necessary.
- Clean and oil where necessary.

## **ACCENT PLANTS AND FIGURINES:**

- If you make use of them they must be prepared and cleaned as well.

## **DISPLAY LABELS:**

- Make certain that proper labels are prepared.
- Information that should appear on the label is botanical name, common name, style, age of tree, age of tree as a bonsai and growers name.