



THE MIDWAY NEWS

5. TREE OF THE MONTH: SWAMP CYPRESS

THE BALD (OR SWAMP) CYPRESS, WHICH HAS ORIGINS IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES - COMES FROM THE GENUS TAXODIUM, WHICH CONSISTS OF TWO SPECIES: TAXODIUM DISTICHUM (SWAMP CYPRESS) AND TAXODIUM ASCENDENS (POND CYPRESS). BOTH MAY BE USED FOR BONSAI, ALTHOUGH THE BALD CYPRESS IS MUCH MORE COMMONLY SEEN AS SUCH.

THIS TREE THRIVES IN HOT, MOIST CONDITIONS, AND TENDS TO BE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAN SOUTH, THOUGH IT ALSO GROWS AS FAR NORTH AS MASSACHUSETTS AND MINNESOTA.

A DECIDUOUS CONIFER, THIS IS A HARDY TREE, CAPABLE OF LIVING UP TO 800-1000 YEARS.

POSITION: THESE TREES GROW BEST IN A CLIMATE WITH A HOT SUMMER, AND NEED FULL SUNLIGHT.

WATERING: DON'T WORRY ABOUT OVER-WATERING THIS BONSAI, IT THRIVES IN SWAMPY SOILS. IF KEPT OUTDOORS, PARTICULARLY IN SUMMER, IT MAY NEED WATERING MORE THAN ONCE A DAY. WATER BY FILLING THE POT RIGHT TO THE RIM.



Swamp Cypress – Artist Unknown



THE MIDWAY NEWS

5. TREE OF THE MONTH: SWAMP CYPRESS CONTINUED

FEEDING: FERTILIZE WEEKLY WITH THROUGHOUT THE SPRING. IN LATE SUMMER THROUGH FALL, REDUCE FREQUENCY TO BI-WEEKLY. AFTER YOUR TREE GOES DORMANT, OFFER IT A DOSE OF 0-10-10 AND THEN REFRAIN FROM FERTILIZING UNTIL THE NEXT SPRING.

REPOTTING: ONLY REPOT OR PRUNE THE ROOTS IN THE SPRING. BECAUSE THE ROOT SYSTEM OF THE CYPRESS GROWS EXCEPTIONALLY FAST, YOU SHOULD ROOT PRUNE AT LEAST EVERY OTHER YEAR, UNLESS YOU WANT TO DEVELOP CYPRESS KNEES.

PRUNING: HOLD OFF ON CUTTING YOUR NEW BALD CYPRESS FOR A FEW YEARS, OR ELSE YOU RUN THE RISK OF IT DEVELOPING A NARROW, SCRAGGLY TRUNK. THIS BONSAI SPECIES IS WELL SUITED FOR INFORMAL UPRIGHT, UPRIGHT, LITERATI, SLANTING, DOUBLE TRUNK, AND GROUP SHAPES. HARD PRUNE IN LATE WINTER, THIS WILL SPUR NEW GROWTH. PRUNING MAY BE CARRIED OUT THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER, AND NEW GROWTH WILL APPEAR AT THE PRUNING SITE. TO THICKEN A BRANCH, ALLOW IT TO GROW FOR A SEASON OR TWO BEFORE TRIMMING.



Swamp Cypress – Artist Unknown