

Hi everybody,

I and Miyoko had to put all my bonsai on the shelves in the morning of 22nd, which had put down on the earth and under shelves, brought into our garage in the evening of 19th because the extremely big typhoon had been coming to our district. Besides as its speed had been extremely slow, we and my bonsai had endured the strong winds and extremely much rain for a whole day. Fortunately it turned the course to the Pacific Ocean immediately before our district. And it rained on 21st. A lot of people had the very miserable floods in a lot of districts in Japan.

And we sprinkled three kinds of chemicals over all satsuki, rose and trees in the garden in the afternoon of 22nd. As it takes me more than an hour to do so and I have to put on the rainwear, it is the very hard working in summer. Though it was very fine and hot (32 degrees C) yesterday, I finished pruning the rest of trees in the garden. As I am a acrophobe, it is always difficult and hard for me to climb the steps of 3.6 m ladder which has three legs and to prune the 4 m ilex and other tall trees. Therefore though I am very tired, I will have been perfectly free since today.

As Brian MacKichan had asked me to explain how to grow small satsuki, I answered his question. Please read these details of my methods to grow satsuki.

Depending on my experience, I would like to explain how to grow satsuki quickly. But you have to remember this is a basic method to grow them.

1. To choose the cuttings when you would like to get the trees of beautiful multicoloured flowers. You mustn't select the cuttings from the branches of red or white flowers. I think the most suitable time in England is early June when the new shoots are a little bit hard.
2. To use the medicine to make a lot of roots quickly. Perhaps you can buy it.
3. To insert the cuttings into fine kanuma soil in the seedling tray slantly (45 degree) to get the good saplings for bonsai.
4. To repot each of them into a middle class of plastic pots at the end of July if each cutting has a lot of white roots, or in early August. Repotting them, you have to spread them in every direction, using a pair of tweezers.
5. To give them a very small quantity of organic fertilisers when it is a week since repotting. If you have a green house and can keep the temperature in it above 10 degree C in winter, you had better do so every week. Whenever you can see a flower bud on the top, you have to remove it and the new shoots which you can see to get tall trees. If you can do so, you will be able to get taller sapling next year. If you would like to get tall saplings, you have to get them within two years. Saplings of satsuki trees don't grow tall after two years passed..
6. To repot them into shallow terracotta (#6 = 18 cm) next march or April. If you can get tall saplings enough to wire them, do so after you repot them and fix them with thin cord.
7. To grow them without pruning for two years. If you don't get tall saplings, you have to continue to remove new shoots. But you cannott wish to get very tall saplings. To grow them quickly, you had better give them a small quantity of organic fertilisers every two weeks.
8. To wire them after pruning if you can get the suitable height of saplings

you like. And removing three fourths of old soil, you can repot them in shallow terracotta (#7 = 21 cm) in March. If they are much taller than 70 cm, use bigger flowerpots. To grow then quickly, you had better give them a small quantity of organic fertilisers every two weeks. And whenever you can see a necessary new shoot, wire it.

9. When you can get better and taller young trees in three or four years, you repot them in shallow terracotta (#8 = 24 cm) after pruning and wiring them, and washing their roots in March. It is better to give them a lot of fertilisers four times in a year (at the middle of March, at the end of April, after blooming, at the start of September).

10. I think you had better to prune young trees after removing all flower buds in March. But when you would like to confirm their colours of flowers you can prune them after blooming. And if you keep new shoots on the trunk and remove them next March, it is a good method to make their trunks grow thicker. But when they are very long, you always have to cut them short.

11. When you can get the good shapes of satsuki, you can repot them in the suitable flowerpots which you like after washing their roots completely. When you cannot get them, you had better use the same flowerpots.

12. Success depends on your good care and watch of satsuki trees. I took some photos yesterday to show them to you

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Small trees 001 Nikko (14 years old). Height, 36 cm. Repotted in the early this month.

002 Nikko (14 years old). Height, 39 cm. The same.

004 Nikko (14 years old). Height 45 cm. The same

005 Nikko (11 years old). Height, 23 cm The same

006 Nikko (blue pot)(11 years old). Height, 21 cm.

The same

Sachi no hana (white pot)(11 years old). Height, 22 cm. The same

004 Unknown (about 18 years old). Height, 22 cm.

Repotted in 2010

007 Unknown (15 years old). Height, 36 cm. The same

008 Nyohozan (14 years old). Height, 18 cm. The sane

009 A cutting of Nikko.

I have grown all these trees except a cutting of Nikko since when I got the cuttings. Two trees of Unknown are those of seedlings which I have grown since when I found them in the nursery. I think these trees are good models to grow small satsuki.

Here I would like to show you the methods to grow small satsuki (shohin and mini bonsai).

A. To grow multi-trunk satsuki.

1. A cutting of Niko (009) is very good to make 3 or 5 trunk satsuki bonsai because it has a lot of white young roots on the bottom which you can see. Though I have a lot of new shoots like this cutting now on the bottoms of a lot of trees in the nursery, I am very sorry that I have to put them into a rubbish bag. Even if you don't have them, you can get a old shoot which has new multi-shoots. If you have the medicine to let a lot of new

roots come quickly, it is OK.

2. To wire them in two or three years when they are tall enough to do so.
3. When you can see the new shoots which come from the bottom of the sapling, or from the soil, keep them to grow them.

B. To grow shohin quickly.

1. To get cuttings and insert them into fine Kanuma soil in the seedling tray or pots.
2. To wire the trunks of saplings in March in two or three years, when they are tall enough to do so, and repot them. And to unwind the wire in Autumn
3. Don't remove the new shoots, but cut them short in March for two years (not to let them have their flowers.)
4. To wire the necessary shoots after pruning and repot them in March. You had better change the top with a thinner shoot when you prune the tree. And you have to repeat this method to get a good shohin. When you can have a new good shoot as a branch, wire it and remove the old branch.

C. To grow mini bonsai.

1. To get cuttings and insert them into fine Kanuma soil in the seedling tray or pots.
2. To wire the trunks and shoots of saplings in March in three years, and repot them. And to unwind the wire in Autumn.
3. To confirm the colours of the flowers and prune them after flowering.
4. To wire them again in March in two years after pruning. You had better change the top with a thinner shoot when you prune the tree. Remove the new shoots whenever you can see them on the trunks of the trees. It is unnecessary to make them thicker year by year.
5. You don't have to give them a lot of fertilisers. But take note of a lack of water because it is very dangerous, especially in summer and winter.

With best regards,

Mack

