

I am a big fan of flowering bonsai and the spring is a great time to enjoy them. Species commonly grown as bonsai for their flowers are Cherry, Blackthorn, Crab apple, Hawthorn, Pyracantha, Wisteria, Cotoneaster, and of course Satsuki azaleas which are perhaps the last to flower in June/July. But there are many other species commonly available as garden plants that can be used to extend your flowering bonsai season. I have a Cornus mas (Cornelian Cherry) that flowers in early February and is followed by Forsythia in March. Here are some more unusual flowering species that I have developed from garden centre plants:



Amelanchier (Snowy Mespil)



Corylopsis



Enkianthus

Laburnum seems to be rarely used for bonsai, but I have been experimenting with them and the results are very encouraging. This one was the result of an air-layer from a garden Laburnum about 3 years ago. If you have one in the garden, get in there and take an air-layer in the next month!!



With a few exceptions, most species flower on the previous season's growth. That means that some growth must be allowed to develop. Species will vary but as a general rule, prune back immediately after flowering and then allow some growth during the summer. Any trimming in late summer should be limited to just taking off any long shoots or straggly ends.

