



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | October 2017

NEXT MEETING:

October 12 | 6:30

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA:

Conifer Identification

CLUB OFFICERS:

PresidentKarl
Vice PresidentMary
TreasurerGary
CommunicationsDevon
LibrarianDerek
RefreshmentsElaine

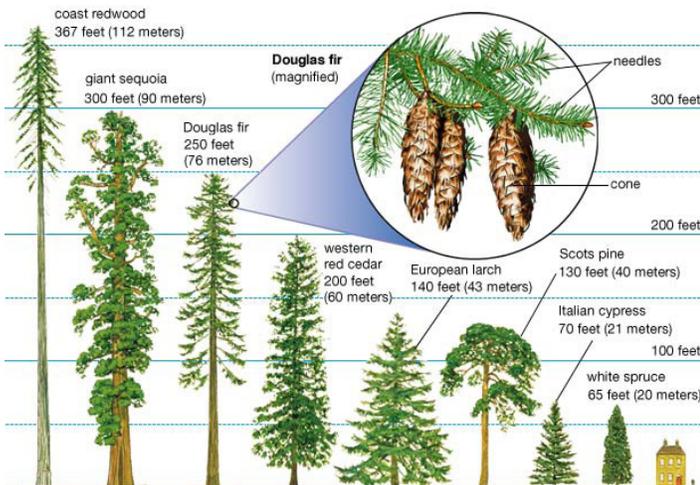
President's Message

I wrote on this topic about a year ago for the BBS Newsletter. It is a subject in which I have gotten better, but by no means do I consider myself an expert. But, because conifers make such wonderful bonsai material, I'll try to pass along what I do know at our October 12 meeting. Juniper, pine, fir, spruce, tamarack, and hemlock

can all be used as suitable bonsai material. Sometimes these are easy to distinguish – it is not hard to tell a shimpaku juniper from an eastern white pine. But, other times the differences are much more subtle, like to distinguish Black Hills spruce from black spruce. So, hopefully our next meeting will be of interest and value to you.

End-of-Season Sales

Most retailers have already had their end-of-season sales on plant material. If you were looking for anything special, hopefully you were able to find it at a reduced price. K and A Greenhouse closed for the season today, October 1. The discount stores – Menards, Home Depot, Shopko, etc – have either sold off everything, or what is left is not bonsai material. The larger nurseries, like Jungs and the Bruce Company, still have some good stuff, but they are less unlikely to offer steep discounts.



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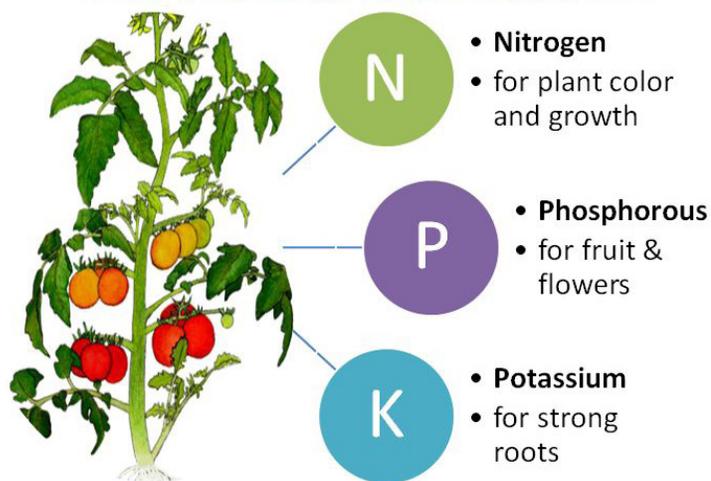
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END OF SEASON

SALE

Fertilizing

The conventional wisdom says you should stop using nitrogen fertilizer in early September. (Remember the three numbers on the fertilizer stand for the percentages of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium compounds in the product, in that order. So, a bag marked 20, 15, 15 contains 20% nitrogen compounds). Continue to use something like 0, 20, 20 which contains no nitrogen, but does contain phosphorus and potassium which will aid in producing winter hardiness. Once the trees go dormant, stop all fertilizer.



Library

Derek has taken over the library responsibilities. If you want a particular book/magazine from our collection, let him know and he'll bring it to the meeting.

Fall Colors

Every season has its own rewards for a bonsai grower and fall is no exception. Fall color should be spectacular for all your maples. Ginkgo and tamarack both produce bright gold colors. Fruiting bonsai like the crabapples will frequently have the fruit retained after shedding the leaves, leaving a colorful sight. My Japanese beautyberry, *Calicarpa japonica*, always produces an amazing iridescent purple berry about the size of a small pea. In Japanese this plant is known as *Murasaki Shikibu*, which is just fun to say. I have just one plant of this and it usually dies back to ground level each year. But, the Japanese are able to grow this into a fat-trunk quality bonsai. I am going to keep trying.

