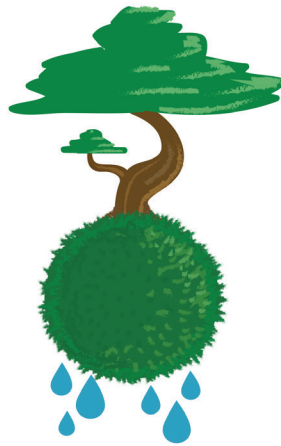


# Chinese Elm Bonsai



**1** Submerge the whole moss ball in water until the bubbles stop.



**2** Gently squeeze it and leave it to drain for 5 minutes



**3** Mist the moss ball every 1 - 3 days if the moss feels dry.

## WATER ONCE A WEEK - SPRAY EVERY 1-3 DAYS

*Water when the plant feels lightweight, this can more or less a week, make sure the moss is not drenched all the time as it will go brown.*

### MOSS CARE - WATERING

To keep the moss-ball green, spray it with water when it feels dry. This will depend on the humidity in your home. If the moss-ball is saturated all the time the moss will go brown.

On rare occasions, mould can form on the moss. This will be due to too much watering or lack of air around the plant. If this happens, wipe off the mould with diluted washing liquid. If roots grow out of the moss ball you can easily trim them or ask for a Re-Moss service.



Wrap the moss ball with a clear plastic bag and seal it for holidays.

### HOLIDAYS & MOSS RECOVERY

If you are going to go on holidays, simply water the bonsai and wait for **3 days to dry** as normally, then seal the moss ball in a plastic bag. This will generate a green-house effect were the plant will generate its own humidity and sustain itself for longer without water. The bonsai should last between **2 – 3 weeks** without water.

If you notice that your moss is going brown, water the plant and **leave it dry for 3 days**, then seal the moss-ball in a plastic bag. This will generate enough humidity to create a green-house effect. Leave the bag sealed for a week, opening only **every 3 days for 1 hour**.

## BONSAI CARE

**Watering is the most important factor when growing a bonsai.** Bonsai trees like Sun and lots of Light. They should be turned at least once a week to ensure they grow evenly. If the stems are growing very long the plant may not be getting enough sun. In Winter time the Chinese Elm Bonsai will lose half of its leaves and they will go yellow. This is normal and new growth will come back in spring time.

## FERTILISER

Feeding is done by adding the Liquid Fertilizer to the water used when watering the plant once a month and not in winter time. Feed with liquid Bonsai feed or Baby Bio throughout the growing season. The amount of feeding is dependent on the type of feed used. All types of feed carry detailed instructions on how to use them. Fertilise your bonsai when you start to see new growth in spring.

## PRUNING

Bonsai trees need to be pruned regularly to keep their original shape and stay small. Keep it to 5 leaves for each stem. If any leaves go brown or spotted cut them off from the stem, this will avoid from spreading.

## F.A.Q.

**Why are my leaves yellow?** - This is very common and is expected to happen over the lifetime of your plant. It happens a lot with Chinese Elms. This is because your plants has either not been watered enough, is a little bit under-nourished or it has not had enough daylight (sunshine). Run your fingers over the plant to brush off the yellow leaves - they should easily come off.

**Why are my leaves dry & brittle?** Your plant has not been watered enough. Wait until it stops bubbling, then water it again 4 days later. If it bubbles again you need to water your bonsai more regularly. Make sure your bonsai is not getting too hot and drying out next to a radiator.

**Why do I have black spots on my leaves?** - Your plant has 'black fly', which is very common in roses. Remove the leaves with black spots on them and throw them away. Hopefully this will resolve the issue. If not then spray them with 'Rose Clear' which you can get from most garden centres.

**Why are new branches really tall and long?** - The bonsai doesn't have enough light and it is growing as far as possible to find it. Chinese Elm should have at least 1-2 hours of direct sunlight per day. If you have a stem that is very long, give it a good trim back. You have to keep continually trimming your bonsai so that you have a maximum of 5 leaves per stem.

**Why is my moss brown?** - It can be because of 2 things: It is because it has had too much water and it is drenched, or the moss has not been kept moist. Moss doesn't like to be drenched but it needs to be kept hydrated - using a water mister on your moss ball will help. Feel the moss; if it is dry give it a spray so water hangs on the moss like morning dew.

**Why are my leaves pale green?** - The reason is your plant needs fertilising. Plants need food & although your plant will arrive well fed, we recommend that you fertilise your plant once a month with Bonsai liquid feed during spring, summer and autumn. Just add it to the water when you fully submerge your moss ball. It is very important that you do not fertilise your plant in winter between November - February as your plant will hibernate during this time.