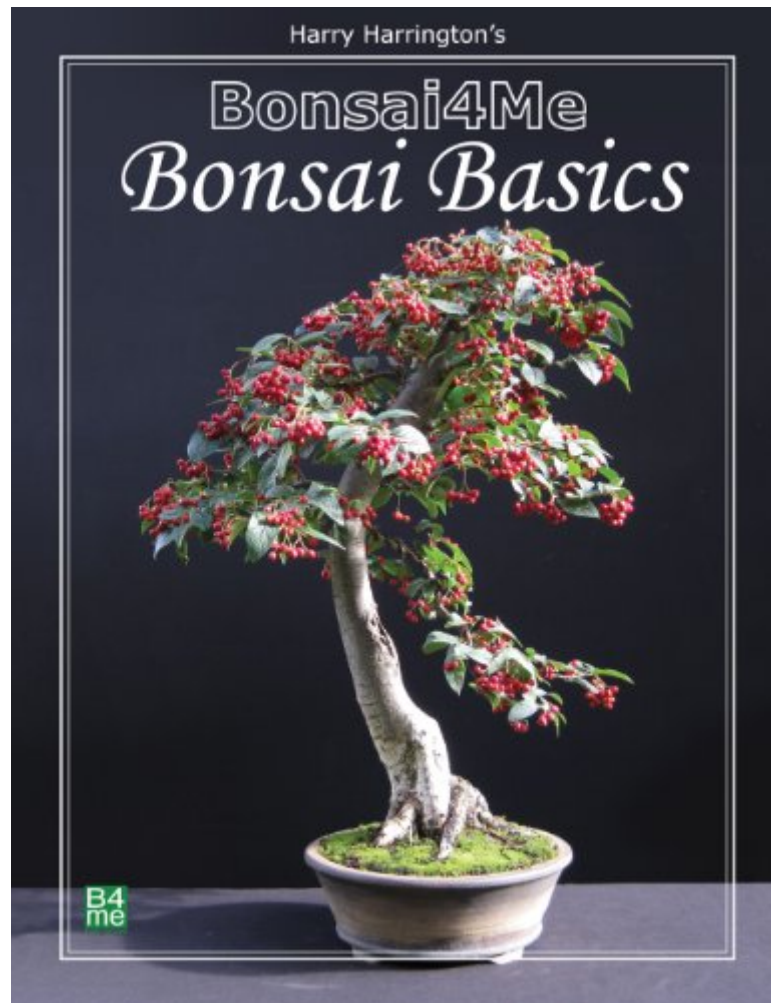




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Bonsai4me: Bonsai Basics



Synopsis

The Art and Practise of Bonsai conjures an aura of mystery and wonder that draws many first-time enthusiasts to it. Until the 1990s and the onset of the Internet, bonsai enthusiasts were few and far between. Information was very scarce and only available in a handful books written by Western 'Bonsai Masters' who had worked in isolation for many years. There was a lot of trial and error on the part of both these 'Masters' and enthusiasts. This trial and error period didn't necessarily lead to good information..... Individuals lacking in basic knowledge and experience (relative to today's standards) wrote books and the misinformation contained was passed around as gospel. It is no wonder that people who took up bonsai were often confused. It can be extremely difficult to decipher between fact and fiction when even reference books seemed to contradict each other! With the advent of the Internet, enthusiasts were finally able to link up across the world and compare experiences, improve their overall knowledge and discovered that many pre-90 bonsai books are inaccurate and in some cases downright wrong! Unfortunately many vendors and 'authorities' on bonsai still hark back to the old days and continue to perpetuate myths and bad practises. Upon finding that I work as a professional bonsai artist, many people will remark that they once had a bonsai, but it died and with some regret, they gave up. It is hoped that this book, 'Bonsai4me: Bonsai Basics', will arm those new to bonsai with a solid foundation of knowledge that will enable them to successfully keep their bonsai alive and well, through very simple practises, and continue to enjoy, what for many that practise the Art, is a life-long passion. Bonsai4me: Bonsai Basics takes the reader through the basics of caring for their first bonsai with honest, simple and straightforward advice from the writer of Bonsai4me, Harry Harrington. Over 29 chapters, Bonsai Basics offers chapters on subjects such as placement, watering, indoor and outdoor bonsai, pruning, wiring, repotting and root-pruning as well as fertilizing, wiring and styling. All based on a website, Bonsai4me.com, that has been widely regarded and referred to for over a decade by millions of enthusiasts around the world.

Book Information

File Size: 6466 KB

Print Length: 226 pages

Publisher: B4Me Publishing; 1 edition (February 9, 2013)

Publication Date: February 9, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00BDVK9OW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #145,285 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10

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Customer Reviews

Great resource for those seeking introductory information regarding the art of Bonsai such as myself. The book covers many ares from tools, soils, styling, fertilizing, etc. Its photography shows what beautiful natural sculptures these trees really are.

If someone, like myself, is new to bonsai, this might be a good place to start. Often beginners in a hobby struggle with jargon and other technical concepts, but I found that this book took a "dummies" approach to it. I would probably argue that it doesn't go into extreme depth, but it goes far enough to get you going. Given that it's around 5 or 6 dollars, it's a good read for a few nights. The down side, or up side (depending on your view) is it is somewhat short. The downside is sometimes I had a few questions that I wish were answered before going to a new topic, but at the same time it proceeds with a good pace. My personal recommendation is to spend a week and read through two or three beginner books. That being said, I'd start with this one.

Very thorough and enjoyable to read, whether for beginner or experienced grower.

This is the fifth book I've read in my short bonsai career and a pretty good one. I only read a few things that sounded off and the rest was in line with the other things I've read. It also has some new info and tips I haven't heard before. Species guide is lacking somewhat. Most of this is also covered in other books, free websites and forums so whether it's worth the \$6 is up for debate.

Very well written for the novice or someone interested in the art of bonsai. It is basic information and written to understand rather than confuse the reader! I am now comfortable enough to head to the garden center!

Pretty thoroughly covers the basics. Will be on my shelf for quite sometime.

I found that the e-book contained all you could possibly need in the way of instruction. The only other thing needed is hands on experience. The pictures are fabulous, text is easy on the eyes (at least on my computer). I downloaded the kindle app for computers just to be able to get this book. Price is right even if you are just curious about bonsai.

This is the guide to bonsai! I have read a great deal on bonsai, and everyone respects Mr. Harrington. It is my most fervent hope that he also publishes in paper form. I see it listed as published on 2/20, but have not been able to track it down yet. Can't wait!

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