

- When ground has thawed and trees can be dug up, remove protective winter wrapping, check for winter damage, clean out all old foliage and twigs. Water if needed.

### **Pests and Diseases:**

- Juniper's are relatively disease free - root rot, scale can be a problem - if needed use Ortho Volck Oil Spray (can be used as a dormant spray or a growing season spray).

### **Re-potting: Trees may or may not need re-potting, only you can tell.**

- the reason for transplanting into fresh soil is, the tree roots need good water drainage and good air space to stay healthy.
- the reason for root pruning is, to maintain tree health, size and improve how its roots fan out, adding to the size of surface roots.
- will need to be re-potted every two - five years or sooner if root bound
- older tree longer between re-potting
- will require some root pruning at time of re-potting

### **Watering:**

- There are two basic watering rules for almost all bonsai. The first allow the soil to dry out between watering, but never allow the soil to remain bone dry.
- when re-potted, water sparingly until the trees seem healthy

### **Feeding: DO NOT FERTILIZE A STRESSED TREE OR RE-POTTED TREE**

- you can use a B1 (Superthrive) and 10-52-10 transplant fertilizer when tree first re-potted
- trees which have not been re-potted, important to start fertilizing your tree in the spring with a fertilizer like 30-10-10
- if using a chemical fertilizer like 30-10-10 dilute to half the recommend strength

### **Pruning and Pinching:**

- some branches may be in need of some pruning, helps produce buds closer to the trunk or to improve tree style
- start some foliage pruning and pinching to develop and improve foliage pads and maintain tree style. Do not over pinch juniper foliage as the strength of junipers comes from the foliage.

### **Wiring: DO NOT WIRE FRESHLY REPOTTED TREES**

- important to wire branches as early as possible before they become too large and difficult to position easily. - Some wiring to change branch direction and improve the over-all style
- junipers can be wired at any time of the year, but best done in spring

### **Light:**

- Junipers prefer full sun, grow better and faster

## Spring Care for Conifers - Larch (Tamarack)

- When ground has thawed and trees can be dug up, remove protective winter wrapping, clean, check for winter damage and water if needed.

### Pests and Diseases:

- check for pests like borers and scale-like aphids. If detected spray with recommended treatment.

### Re-potting: : Trees may or may not need re-potting, only you can tell.

- the reason for transplanting into fresh soil is, the tree roots need good water drainage and good air space to stay healthy.
- the reason for root pruning is, to maintain tree size and improve how its roots fan out, adding to the size of surface roots.
- larches do not like to be root bound. Young trees should be re-potted every year
- re-potting should be done before buds open
- Will require some root pruning

### Watering:

- there are two basic watering rules for almost all bonsai. Allow the soil to dry out between watering, but never allow the soil to remain bone dry.
- if re-potted water sparingly until the trees seem healthy

### Feeding: DO NOT FERTILIZE A STRESSED TREE OR NEWLY REPOTTED TREE

- you can use a B1 (Superthrive) and 10-52-10 transplant fertilizer when first re-potted
- To promote vigorous growth in the spring it is recommended to feed heavily with a high nitrogen 30-10-10, dilute to half the recommend strength weekly and reduce feeding to twice monthly by mid-summer and 0-10-10 fertilizer by the end of summer.
- Older trees require less fertilizer and cutting back fertilizer to once every month will help produce smaller needles.

### Pruning and Pinching:

- branches, may need some pruning to help produce buds closer to the trunk on each branch, which will help to improve good branch development and improved tree style
- also may need some foliage pruned to promote better branch development

### Wiring: DO NOT WIRE NEWLY REPOTTED TREES

- Some wiring to change branch location and improve the over-all tree style. Wiring on larches should not be done until the buds begin to swell but before they turn green.

### Light:

- Larches like full sun, but will grow well in semi-shade.

## Spring Care Conifers - Cedar

- When ground has thawed and trees can be dug up, remove protective winter wrapping and check for winter damage, clean out all old foliage. Water if needed.

### Pests and Diseases:

- pests - scale and leaf miner- systemic insecticide, mites - dormant oil spray
- diseases - fungus - shoot blight and witch broom - apply fungicide

### Re-potting: Trees may or may not need re-potting, only you can tell.

- the reason for transplanting into fresh soil is, the tree roots need good water drainage and good air space to stay healthy.
- root pruning helps to maintain tree size and improve how its roots fan out, adding to the size of surface roots.
- cedar trees can stay in the same container for several years, until they become root bound
- when they are re-potted they will require some root pruning

### Watering:

- there are two basic watering rules for almost all bonsai. Allow the soil to dry out between watering, but never allow the soil to remain bone dry.
- if re-potted, water sparingly until the trees seem healthy

### Feeding: DO NOT FERTILIZE A STRESSED TREE OR NEWLY REPOTTED TREE

- you can use a B1 (Superthrive) and 10-52-10 transplant fertilizer when first re-potted
- start feeding healthy trees in April - May with a 30-10-10 fertilizer as cedars like a slightly acid soil. Cedars grow throughout the growing season without a period of rest.

### Pruning and Pinching:

- branches - should be scissor pruned in the spring and again in the growing season.
- pinching off the tips of all foliage fronds should not be done until after the first flush of growth has hardened. Pinching the aforementioned leaders after hardening off and pinching the frond tips, promotes interior back-budding.

### Wire:

- you will need some patience, as cedars are difficult to wire. Wiring the branches is not a problem, but, care should be taken when wiring the foliage fronds, not to change the grow angle too drastically at one time. There is a top and bottom to each frond so be careful not to place the underside facing towards the sun as the frond will likely die. Shaping foliage frond may be best done by pruning and re-growing.

### Light:

- full sun or part shade

## Spring Care Conifers - Pines

- When ground has thawed and trees can be dug up, remove protective winter wrapping, check for winter damage, clean and water if needed.

### Pests and Diseases:

- pests - sawflies, needle miner, scale, bark beetles, shoot borer and adelgids
- diseases - rust, dieback, root rot, needle cast, tip blight and canker
- couple of applications yearly of systemic insecticide and fungicide will help.

### Re-potting: Trees may or may not need re-potting, only you can tell.

- the reason for transplanting into fresh soil is, the tree roots need good water drainage and good air space to stay healthy.
- the reason for root pruning is, to maintain tree size and improve how its roots fan out, adding to the size of surface roots. **Do not over prune** the root system, as most of the pine strength come from the root system.
- younger pines can be re-potted every two - five years or sooner if root bound
- will require some root pruning
- general rule is for older mature trees (30-40 yrs.) "only one insult per vegetative period".
- *Example - if re-potted do not do anything more to the tree for another 12 months*

### Watering:

- pine trees like to become almost completely dry between watering, but do not let dry out completely.

### Feeding: **DO NOT FERTILIZE REPOTTED OR STRESSED TREES**

- pines are like most conifers they like slightly acidic soil
- feed with a balanced fertilizer 20-20-20 throughout the growing season.
- occasional replacing feed with Miracid, two or three times a year.

### Pruning and Pinching:

- mid-April - May - Stop fertilize pines 6 weeks before pruning and pinching. You need to do some candle (elongated buds) pinching and some bud removal. Wait until needles and candles have hard off.

Needle plucking can be done any time of growing season, mostly in spring and fall.

### Wire:

- pines are best wired in spring. Helps improve tree overall style and balance.

### Light:

- pines prefer full sun, rotating the tree during the day if light is blocked by a fence.

## Spring Care Conifers - Spruce

- When ground has thawed and trees can be dug up, remove all protective winter wrapping, check for winter damage, clean and water if needed.

### **Pests and Diseases:**

- aphids and red spider mites are the biggest problems
- cytospora canker

### **Re-potting: Trees may or may not need re-potting, only you can tell.**

- every two years before the first new growth
- the reason for transplanting into fresh soil is, the tree roots need good water drainage and good air space to stay healthy.
- root pruning is needed, to maintain tree size and improve how its roots fan out, adding to improved surface root size.

### **Watering:**

- especially in spring and summer, needs regular watering

### **Feeding: DO NOT FERTILIZE REPOTTED OR STRESSED TREE**

- from early spring till autumn every two weeks
- feed with a balanced fertilizer 20-20-20 dilute to half the recommend strength

### **Pruning and Pinching:**

- different from other conifers, don't pinch needles early. Wait for the shoots to mature a bit, late spring and then pinch back to about ½ the length of the shoot. Healthy trees will back bud towards the trunk, but it's difficult. Prune older branches to create open area where young buds will grow.

### **Wire:**

- wire only in the autumn and winter, any other time it can result in dieback of branches.

### **Light:**

- spruce like full sun

## When and what to do with your Bonsai trees in spring

My references are from several bonsai books, with many authors. Some of the information in this text is for general use and may differ, depending on the tree species and your location, climate zone.

After the ground has thawed, (end of March or April) dig your tree up and remove all the protective wrapping. Clean and inspect your tree for winter damage and pests.

If it is a young tree and is root bound you will most likely need to re-pot it.

Trees under 10 years mostly need to be re-potted every other year or Sooner, if needed.

Older trees every 3 - 5 years.

The reason for transplanting into fresh soil is, the trees roots need good water drainage and good air space to stay healthy.

Root pruning is needed, to maintain tree size and improve how its roots fan out, adding to the size of surface roots and overall tree style.

Water with a B1 (Superthrive) and 10-52-10 fertilizer solution. The best way to do this is submerge the tree in a water bath up to the rim of the pot. Leave until all the bubbles are gone or the top of the soil is saturated with water. Remove and let drain. Place tree in a shady location and do not fertilizer again until tree show signs of new growth.

**Note:** 10-52-10 fertilizer - is a high phosphorus fertilizer for strong and rapid root growth. Helps prevent transplant shock.  
Superthrive - B1 vitamin helps improve tree's root health.