



# BSSF guide to seasonal bonsai care in the San Francisco Bay Area

This guide is meant for reference only and should not be used as a definitive set of rules. Bonsai care is ultimately based on the weather and on the health and condition of the tree that you are working on. Please consult a qualified person before performing any stressful procedure. Generally, feeding can be done on all but just repotted trees, other work may or may not be performed depending on the trees condition. Remember that wiring, repotting, pruning, defoliating, needle pulling etc cause stress to a tree, so use discretion and allow trees to regain strength after large amounts of work are done. Darker shading indicates better times or increased activity.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Black Pine</b> (including any two needle pine; red pine delay 1 week)	finish wiring finish needle removal	Feed		Increase Feeding	Remove some needles		Thin Buds Check Wire Decandle	Check Wire	Remove Wire if necessary		0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring Begin Needle Removal
<b>Maple</b> Japanese / Trident / Natives	finish wiring	Pinch buds / Remove water shoots			Feed	Defoliate - remove petiole & Repot	Pinch Buds	Check Wire	Check Wire	Remove Wire Remove leaves	0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring -leave Petiole
<b>Elm &amp; Zelkova</b> Including Hornbeam, Hackberry, Willow (all alternate budding trees)	finish wiring	Pinch buds continually			Feed	Defoliate & Repot	Check Wire	Check Wire	Check Wire	Remove Wire	0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring
<b>Junipers-Common</b> (not california or sierra)	Finish Heavy Pruning & Wiring			Feed all year	Repot all year- best time is Spring	Pinch and Wire all Year					0-10-10	Thin out Heavy Growth Heavy Pruning and Wiring
<b>Spruce and Cedar</b>	Loose Wiring Leave wire on Spruce -2years Cedar -3years		Pinch 1/2 of emerging tips			Fertilize after initial Spring growth	Thin out Heavy Growth				0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring
<b>Oaks</b> E: Evergreens D: Deciduous	E: 0-10-10 Wire	Wire	Wire		Feed		Pinch buds	Feed		D: 0-10-10	E: 0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring
<b>Azaleas</b>		Wiring (Alluminum only)	Fertilize with 5-5-5 Fish Emulsion every two weeks	Root Growth / Spring Shoots		Summer Shoots / Terminal Buds	Pinch to two leaves / two shoots				0-10-10	Wiring (alluminum only)
<b>White Pine</b> (5 needle pines)		Feed		Increase Feeding	Decandle when candle is covered in white dots	Break Candles in Half Thin Buds		Normal Feeding			0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring Cut Needles - Leave Sheath

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<b>Fruiting and Flowering</b> all apple, plum, ume, quince, cherry, etc	Wire before blooming	Do Not Feed until done blooming	Remove water shoots	Light Pruning	Thin Fruit	Thin Fruit			Remove Fruit		0-10-10	Heavy pruning, repotting, wiring
<b>Beech</b>			Pinch before leaves open as buds form crescent shape		Feed	Pinch 2nd budding	Check Wire	Cut Leaves in 1/2		0-10-10	Heavy pruning, repotting, wiring (remove leaves first)	
<b>Redwood</b>		Pinch Buds - Feed to promote Vigourous Growth, Light feeding for established trees	Heavy Pruning and Wiring	Repot as growth begins	Keep moist (not wet) all year; Shade tollerant - for fast growth place in full sun, for slower more compact growth morning sun only.						0-10-10 or Light Fertilizer	
<b>Wisteria</b>	0-10-10	Repot as growth begins	Flowering		Fertilize after blooming is finished	Do Not Prune after July					0-10-10	
<b>Olive</b>	Repot			Feed / Pinch new growth	Defoliate & Repot Leave two tip leaves remove all others						0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring
<b>Willow</b> (weeping-style training)	Wire	Feed Prune to Vertical Leaf		Feed Prune to Vertical Leaf		Feed Prune to Vertical Leaf	Check Wire	Feed		Remove Wire	0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring
<b>Hinoke Cypress</b>	Wire	Pinch back Hard	Repot			Pinch back Hard		Feed	Check Wire		0-10-10	Remove Wire
<b>All Quince</b>	Wire	Remove flowers as they fade			Feed	Do Not Pinch			Remove Wire		Repot, Prune to shape & Wire	
<b>Hornbeam</b>	Wire	Remove Wild or Strong Growth		Pinch	Feed	Partial Defoliation		Feed		0-10-10	Heavy Pruning and Wiring	