



Bonsai Care FUKIEN TEA

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Taxonomic Name: *Carmona retusa*

Borage Family

Tropical Bonsai Plant

The Fukien tea plant--pronounced either FOO-kyen or FOO-jan--is not quite as well known as the serissa or the brush cherry, but it makes an outstanding subject for bonsai. It can form a stout and relatively squat trunk that mimics the aspect of a full-sized sycamore or elm that is hundreds of years old. The Fukien tea also has glossy, dark green leaves of unique shape--they are narrowest at their base and have marginal teeth only near the tip. The species is native to southern China and other parts of southeastern Asia.

How to Care for Your Plant:

LIGHT: A few hours of direct sunlight each day (for example, as found in an unobstructed eastern or western window) are preferred. Bright indirect sunlight may also acceptable to your plant.

WATERING: Do not let your Fukien tea's medium dry out. Water whenever the potting medium or cover moss is dry to the touch. In warm, dry conditions you *may* have to water once a day (preferably in the morning). Water thoroughly. At least a little water should come out of the pot's bottom drainage holes, but the plant should not stand in saucer water afterward.

HUMIDITY: The more air moisture, the better. If possible, place your bonsai on a humidity tray or on a pebble tray that is partially filled with water. Make sure that the bonsai pot always sits above the pebble tray's water line.

FEEDING: Feed the plant only when it is actively flowering or producing new leaves. At that point, use a bonsai fertilizer every 2 weeks.