



## Bonsai Care ROSEMARY

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**Taxonomic Name:** *Rosmarinus officinalis*

**Mint Family**

**Mediterranean-Climate Bonsai Plant**

For centuries, herbalists and outdoor gardeners have appreciated the aromatic, shrubby plant known as rosemary. In more recent times, the species has also proven to be a popular subject for bonsai. The plant's needlelike foliage and small white or blue-white flowers give it a most distinctive look. Keep in mind that rosemary bonsai plants do require a winter dormancy period in a room that is sunny and cool (ca. 45 degrees Fahrenheit at night). At this time, a rosemary plant's metabolism slows down, so watering must be reduced but not completely stopped. Rosemary is native to the Mediterranean Basin.

### ***How to Care for Your Plant:***

**LIGHT:** The more direct sunlight, the better. If possible, place your plant in an unobstructed southern or western window.

**WATERING:** From spring through fall, water the plant 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. In winter, let the plant dry out for several days between watering.

**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.