



Bonsai Care SERISSA

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Taxonomic Name: *Serissa foetida*

Madder Family

Tropical Bonsai Plant

The serissa, sometimes also known as the tree of a thousand stars, is one of the hardiest and most popular of all tropical bonsai plants. It is native to Southeast Asia. In addition to being a top-notch foliage selection--its variegated forms are particularly handsome--it bears tiny white or pink flowers that never fail to delight the beholder. Besides the green-leaved species itself, there are several cultivated varieties, the most impressive being the strikingly variegated 'Mount Fuji'.

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 be acceptable to your plant.

WATERING: Do not let your serissa's potting 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 your 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.