

Tree Profile: Boxwood *Harlandii* - Chinese *buxus*

General Information: Buxus is a family of about 70 different species and is very popular for bonsai due to its tiny leaves and flowers. It is very tolerant for extensive pruning and shaping. **One note of caution: Box leaves are poisonous!**

The Harland Box - a native of Southern China and Taiwan can grow up to 10m. Its leaves are thinner than other box species and in early spring it produces fragrant yellow/greenish flowers. One main reason to be a favorite is the impressive deep crevices in the bark, which add to its appearance of age.

Lighting: Full sun or shade work well for *Buxus harlandii*.

Temperature: This box doesn't like cold and should not be exposed to temperatures below -3° C. It has been grown successfully as an indoor plant too. If the temperature goes above 20°C, it enjoys a daily misting. In the summer month it appreciates a fresh but not too hot air circulation.

Watering: Keep the soil moist, doesn't like wet soil. Allow the box to dry somewhat between watering.

Feeding: About every 30 days - use a liquid fertilizer with one application of pulverized organic fertilizer added during active growth. Fertilize with general purpose fertilizer at other times.

Repotting: Suggested every one to two years in well drained soil. Spring is the best time, but can be repotted in summer and autumn if need be, avoid repotting during very hot weather or during a growth spurt. Box dislikes acid soil, adding an occasional dose of lime is recommended.

Propagation: Easy from semi ripe cuttings in summer, Air-layering is also a preferred option.

Pruning and wiring: Buxus are vigorous trees and will put on plenty of fresh leafy growth during the growing season. Let growth extend to about 6 leaves before cutting back to two or three leaves, maintain shape by thinning and pinching of new growth.

Box can be wired at any time, best in summer. Be careful with the delicate bark!

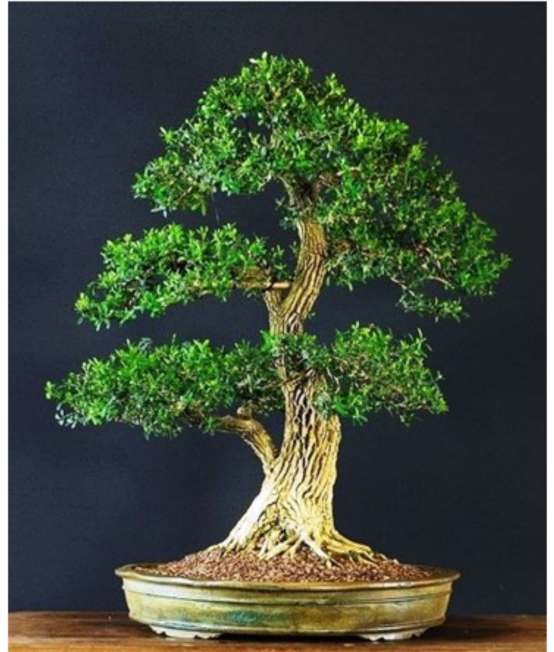
Pests and diseases: Scale insects, mites and leaf miners. Although box is very disease resistant, some of the interior foliage can turn yellow as the tree will shed old leaves periodically.

Styles: Any style except Cascade, but including Root over Rock. Great specimen for Shohin!

*The two top pictures are courtesy of Pavel Slovak and his friend Mirek Škrabal!
The tree is about 40 to 50 years old, 70cm tall and has been reworked over the last 9years!*

Other species suitable for Bonsai:

- **Buxus microphylla:** Japanese box - Grows to 5 feet, and has evergreen leaves under 2.5cm long. It tolerates both sun and shade. All *B. microphylla* varieties are scentless.
- **Buxus microphylla 'Compacta':** dwarf boxwood, 'Kingsville' box. Quarterly spray with Black Leaf 40 or similar mixed with soap.
- **Buxus microphylla 'Koreana':** Korean boxwood - the most hardy box, but expect the foliage to brown in the winter. It is a low, spreading variety, growing to only 1.5m.
- **Buxus sempervirens:** common box, English box - this box appears as both hedges and small trees. Its evergreen leaves grow to 3.5 cm. This box is very hardy with some winter protection.



Orient Bonsai Nursery



11 Mahoneys Road
Reservoir VIC 3073
Phone: 03 9460 3059
Email: orient_bonsai@hotmail.com

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