

## Tree Profile: Dwarf Pomegranate - *Punica Granatum*

**General Information:** Originally cultivated since prehistoric times in the ancient Mediterranean and Asia, the 'Dwarf Pomegranate' is a popular choice for Bonsai. It has opposite leaves and grows oval shaped flowers, turning in to yellow/red fruits.

**Lighting & Temperature:** Full sun and good air circulation for best results. Protect from hard frost below -5°C.

**Watering:** Keep the tree damp, don't let it dry out and give plenty of water when fruiting. By keeping the pomegranate slightly dry in mid to late spring, the tree is encouraged to set flowering shoots.

**Feeding:** If you want the tree to grow healthy flowers and fruits, use a fertilizer with high phosphorous and high potassium from spring to late summer. Remove flowers if you opt for fast growth. Don't feed in winter!

**Pruning and wiring:** If you want the tree to flower wait with any pruning until after blooming, then prune back to one or two sets of leaves. Alternatively the plant could be pruned hard before any new shoots emerge in spring, to make way for the new growth. Flowering shoots are usually shorter than leaf shoots and are carried at the terminals.

Wiring can be done from spring through the end of autumn.

**Propagation:** From seeds, sowing in spring or by using cuttings in summer. From root cuttings, many also sucker up from the roots; the suckers may be separated from the roots in autumn or in the following spring.

Collecting in spring or autumn with the maximum amount of root ball retained when planting the tree in a pot or box to recover. Do use the method of submerging the potted tree into water after collection for 2 to 3 weeks. The abundance of water enables new roots to easily take in water and stops the leaves from becoming limp and falling.

**Repotting:** Repot the tree every two years in spring when the buds are forming. Young trees are repotted every year. Never use shallow containers when re-potting because it flowers well when slightly root bound. It needs soil capacity and a reservoir effect to support it in this condition.

Pots in blues, yellows, unglazed browns and grays are very suitable.

**Pests and Diseases:** Usually they're trouble free, but can sometimes be affected by aphids. Treat with pyrethrum or a similar insecticide.

**Styles:** Informal upright, forest, cascade, literati, in/on the rock, root over rock, twin trunk, windswept, group and twisting trunk style, also suitable for deadwood features



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