

Tree Profile: *Wisteria - Wysteria*

General information: Wisteria (also spelled Wistaria or Wysteria) is a genus of flowering plants in the pea family and includes ten species of woody climbing vines native to China, Korea, Japan and the South, Central and Eastern United States. It has pods as fruits and is very popular as an ornamental, but it's poisonous. The flowers appear in long, cascading racemes in various colors and are usually blue, purplish-blue, pink or white.

Japanese and Chinese wisterias are mostly used for bonsai. The racemes and compound leaves of Japanese wisteria are the longest, with racemes from 20 - 50cm in late spring. Chinese wisteria blooms are 15 - 20cm long, but are more strongly scented. American Wisterias are bunched together in less than 10cm cones, held up and away from the foliage. If you have a Wisteria and don't know what species it is the simple way is to count the leaflets: *Wisteria sinensis* has 9 to 11 leaflets and usually bronze coloured new growth when grown in full sun. *Wisteria floribunda* has 11 to 15 or more leaflets and green new growth in full sun.

Lighting and Temperature: The Wisteria needs exposure to full sun, min of 6 hrs daily for best flowering result, but protected from the wind! They can become quite top-heavy and get blown over. Also protect from frost and severe cold.

Watering: The wisteria needs lots of water during the growing season, water heavily before and during flowering. In summer, after flowering, place the pot in a tray of water so that the plant can soak up as much water as it needs. Do not allow the water to stagnate.

Feeding: Wisterias need more fertilizer than most bonsai to ensure good flowering, feeding should be minimized during and immediately following flowering. Use fertilisers and sulphate of potash fortnightly in alternation, potash is necessary for flowering trees! No feeding for 2 months after repotting!

Pruning and wiring: Allow the plant to grow during summer, it helps to thicken the trunk. After flowering cut the leaves back to the last pair of leaflets, this may give poor flowering next year but heavy flowering in the following year. Cut back hard and shape, then leave till autumn before more pruning, leave about 5 nodes on any new long shoot. Wisterias flower on old short shoots rather than on the tips of the growing shoots, removing the tips will not endanger the following spring's bloom. Position the trunk and branches with wire after flowering. Wire the current years shoots carefully because they are prone to snap or break off at the base.

Propagation: From seed, hardwood cuttings in late winter, semi-hardwood cuttings in summer, root cuttings in winter and grafting. Layering can be done in summer.

Repotting: Wisteria should be repotted after flowering in spring or in autumn. Use a fairly deep container to accommodate the vigorous roots. To keep your Wisteria in top form, you need to repot it every two to three years. Flowering improves if the roots are pot-bound!

Pests and diseases: Wisteria is prone to Leafspot, aphids, and brown scale so watch for problems and use organic herbicides or insecticides.

Styles: To show off the flowers, styles such as cascade, informal upright, or slanting work best!



Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To our commercial supporters who took sales tables at our Show and contributed to the success of the event - Orient Bonsai and Chojo Feature Trees.
- To members and friends who supported the Show by providing sales tables - Michael Simonetto, Bruce Argæet, and MarkLudlow, Scott Martin, and Ziggy and JoAnn Reinoga.
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