



## Campeche Care Sheet

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S & S Bonsai of Colorado Springs, Colorado  
(Most of the included information is obtained from several  
online sources.)

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if  
you were to live forever."  
—Mahatma Gandhi—*

## The Campeche

### *(Haematoxylum campechianum)*

**General Information:** Campeche is a fast growing ornamental tree that can reach up to 50 feet in height, and up to 5 feet in diameter! The pinnate leaves consist of several pairs of reverse heart-shaped leaflets. The leaves can vary color and in size from 0.4 inches to 4 inches depending on environmental factors such as sunlight, substrate, and available nutrients. Showy yellow fragrant flowers appear throughout the year. The tree trunk and branches are thorned and become more gnarled with age, lending to its attractive appearance. The wood of the tree is heavy and extremely hard and dense. Freshly cut wood will readily sink in water. As bonsai the hard wood lends itself to Jin & Shari.

The generic name *Haematoxylum* (often spelled *Haematoxylon*) means bloodwood, referring to the dark red heartwood. The specific epithet *campechianum* refers to the coastal city of Campeche on the Yucatan Peninsula, an important source of the valuable heartwood.

**Common Names:** Bloodwood Tree, Campeche, Campechier, Campechy Wood, Logwood, Logwood Casha, Palo Campeche, Palo De Tinta, Palo Negro, Spiny Tree and Tinta.

Campeche has interesting uses. Not only is it used as a dye, but in herbal medicine systems in Mexico it is employed as a natural remedy for anemia, dysentery and diarrhea, intestinal parasites, tuberculosis, and for menstrual disorders. In Brazilian herbal medicine, the bark is used internally for diarrhea, and dysentery; externally as an astringent disinfectant for wounds and skin ulcers.

## CARE

### General Care :

**Temperature:** If temperature drops below the mid 30's°F campeche will drop its leaves but will sprout again when it warms. If the temperature is forecasted low for more than just one night its safest to protect the plant. Do not let it get below 59°F.

**Lighting:** Campeche do well in full sun, and this seems to keep the foliage compact and the internodes short.

**Air:** Not too airy

**Watering:** Keep the soil moist, but avoid 'wet feet'. Water frequently, do not wait for signs of withering.

**Fertilizing:** Balanced liquid fertilizer every two weeks during growing period, reduce that to every 4 weeks during winter.

**Pruning / Training:** The trees will bud back well on old wood, and can be trunk cut to various heights. You need not worry about leaving foliage on this tree as it will leaf out again quickly. The branches respond well to wiring. Most set to their new position with just one application. Larger branches may require repeated attempts, and it's easier to remove thicker growth and wait for new shoots so as to only need to wire once. The wood is quite hard, similar in fact to Buttonwood, and will hold up well after carving. While carving you may notice the wood is a nice orange or red color. This will fade with time, and you may apply lime sulfur then to bleach the wood. For those who don't like them, the thorns can be removed and you will need only deal with the thorns on emerging growth. The new growth tends to have a nice coppery red hue, which greens up as the shoots harden off.

**Insects / Pests:** Pest have not been reported yet. If they do show up, a good spray with soap and water should get rid of them.

**Propagation:** Campeche grows well from cuttings, and will gain girth quite quickly if put into a large container. With cuttings in early summer, Lesniewicz says that temperatures between 77°F to 86°F are needed for roots to form. Also from seed.

**Repotting:** Every two years as necessary. Avoid unnecessary repottings, to anchor the tree.

Campeches can be repotted and bare-root in the summer months, but keep the tree in the shade for 7 to 10 days after until you see new growth. They seem to respond favorably to a soil mix of lava rock, pine bark, and turface - putting out an abundance of new roots quickly.

**Design and Styling:** Informal upright, windswept and cascade.