

easier and cleaner and allow any broken roots to heal which will reduce the chance of rot. Very delicate roots so repot with care. It is better to repot during a period of warm dry weather. Optimum repotting time is during minimum low to mid 60° F night temperature.

Smaller pots allow the soil temperature to get very high which can slow down the speed of growth considerably.

Design and Styling: While a number of styles look great on the Jade Tree the clump and informal upright are the best choices.

Other Crassulas Species Suitable for Bonsai or Accent Plant

- * Silver Dollar Plant (*Crassula arborescens*)
- * Buddha's Temple
- * Accordion Plant
- * Powdered Sugar leaf
- * Moon Stone
- * Necklace Vine
- * Watch chain
- * *Crassula cornuta*
- * *Crassula rupestris*
- * *Crassula pyramidalis*
- * *Crassula falcata*
- * *Crassula tetca*



S & S Bonsai
Steven Alford

1024 Bonfoy Ave.
Colorado Springs CO 80909

Bus: 719-633-9110 cell: 719-332-0546
fax: 719-633-9110 support@bonsaitoolchest.com
www.bonsaitoolchest.com

Jade Care Sheet



Brought to you by
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 Jade

(*Crassula ovata*)

General Information: This genus of plants contains a large number of species with widely varied growth forms. Two hundred and sixteen species of crassulas are succulents. Most of these are indigenous to Southern Africa. While Jade are the largest of all succulent crassulas they are perhaps the most common species found as a houseplant. Some crassulas have a turf-forming growth habit, some have a tuberous root, and others have a dwarf-like growth pattern. The most unusual crassulas are mimicry plants (plants that resemble their surroundings in shape and color).

Crassulas all have very tiny but numerous white, pink, red and more rarely, yellow or green flowers that are borne in clusters called corymbs. The shortening days of fall trigger the Jade to produce gorgeous blooms around late September to early October.

Originally, in the wild, there were only three or four different varieties of Jade; today there are at least 20. This increase in the number of varieties is due to the number of mutations and variegations that have been found and propagated. When a stem of a plant develops an altered, very different appearing growth it is called a monstrose growth form. A Hobbit Jade, for example, is a monstrose growth form that originally appeared on a Crosby's Compact Jade. The Crosby's Compact Jade or Mini Ming Jade is a small leaf monstrose, which was first found growing off a Regular Jade.

A variegated plant occurs when a stem or a single leaf loses some of its chlorophyll. This is what gives some plants the yellow or white markings on their leaves.

CARE

Temperature: Jade will do well at almost any temperature as long as they are not allowed to freeze (better to protect below 40F). They will, however, do most of their growing during the spring, summer and early fall when it is warmer and the days are longer.

Lighting: A plant grown in full sunlight will maintain a compact leafy growth pattern, small leaves and may even develop attractive reddish colored leaf tips. A plant grown in heavy shade will become less compact with more stem length between leaf pairs (inter node length), and have a darker green color to the entire plant. Care should be taken to protect plants that have been kept in shade for some time from sun burning when moved to a sunnier location.

Watering: For optimum growth Jade should be watered thoroughly when you do water (enough so that the water runs out the bottom of the pot) but allow them to dry out, until the leaves begin to wrinkle, between each watering. Jade bonsai have been known to live for 3 and 6 months or more without a single watering. They may shrivel up and drop many of their leaves, but give them a drink and they will swell again and begin to grow.

Fertilizing: pH 7.0. Liquid, granular or pelleted fertilizer all work equally well, but should only be applied when the plant is actively growing. Any good fertilizer with a fairly low nitrogen percentage will do fine. A 10-20-20 mix is ideal although 20-20-20 has shown good results too. As for all bonsai, it is best to use the fertilizer at half strength.

Pruning / Training: New growth needs to be pinched back to encourage stronger growth toward the bottom. Make cuts flush not concave, when removing twigs or branches. Branches are segmented, similar to a bamboo so if you cut between segments, it will rot back to the last segment. While some types of bonsai do not do well with trunk reduction, the Jade Tree does, often healing

from wounds in a matter of one to two weeks. To train the Jade Tree, it responds quite well to wiring, often within about three weeks. Just remember if bent too far, the bark will snap. By laying your plant, pot and all, on its side you can use your plant's natural desire to aim for the sun to force it to grow into almost any shape you can imagine; do the same thing by tying, wiring or staking individual stems. Another successful method is hanging a weight from the limbs to pull them down.

Insects / Pests: Mealybugs can be an issue and Aphids can attack the flower stalks. Mainly free of disease.

Propagation: One of the most exciting and rewarding things about Jade (and most succulents) is the ease with which new plants can be started. With little effort you can propagate from a small stem or leaf cutting. A Jade bonsai is the tree that keeps on giving. A good average size cutting is somewhere between 4" and 8" long with 2 or 3 branches. Allow the cutting to dry for 2 to 7 days (depending on the weather) until it is "scabbed over". Simply stick the stem 1 to 1 1/2" into fresh soil mix (sand works best) and keep it fairly dry until it begins to "throw" new roots. A single leaf dropped in the bottom of the pot will root. If you try leaf propagation with any of the monstrose or variegated varieties, you will be surprised to find that the baby plant that grows will have reverted back to the growth form of the plant it mutated from. Stem cuttings will not revert back to the growth form of the "mother" plant.

Repotting: Your Jade will continue to grow and thrive if repotted into fresh soil every or every other Spring. All succulents including Jade prefer a well drained coarse soil (pH 7.0). Bonsai soil mix with very little to no organic component is perfect. The best mix would be 75% inorganic matter such as grit with 25% organic or peat compost. Do not water your Jade for a few days before or after repotting. This will make the transplanting process