After repotting, water thoroughly and keep the plant in a shady location for several weeks so that new roots may grow.

**Diseases:** No diseases are of major concern. May drop leaves if watering is inconsistent. Not salt tolerant.

**Winter Care:** Brush Cherries should be kept indoors during the winter months. Display them in a sunny spot that does not go below 55°F.

**Some species suitable for bonsai:**

**Eugenia brasiliensis:** Brazil cherry - likes slightly higher winter temperatures (64°-68°F) than other Eugenia species. Needs good light for its red, edible fruit to develop.

**Eugenia cauliflora:** Jaboticaba - Native from southern Brazil to southern California, southern Florida and Hawaii, the jaboticaba has creamy tan bark with pinkish and grayish highlights that peels in long strips like crape myrtle. It will bear purple edible ovoid fruit when the plant is about 15 years old. Expect the jaboticaba to lose about half its leaves in early spring, before the new growth sets in.

**Eugenia myrtifolia** (also called Syzygium paniculatum): Australian brush cherry - Grows to 20 feet. Red, egg-shaped edible fruits. If it receives enough light, the leaves will develop red highlights. Prefers winter temperatures of 59°-64°F.

**Eugenia myrtifolia var. Globulus** (also called Syzygium paniculatum): 'Teenie Genie' cherry - a popular, widely available choice, much loved for bonsai due to its extremely small leaves.

**Eugenia uniflora:** Surinam cherry, Brazil cherry, pitanga - hardy to zone 10, this tropical "cherry" has round red and yellow fruits, which can be used in preserves and sherbets.
The Brush Cherry  
*(Eugenia sp. Or Syzygium)*

**Family:** Myrtaceae  
**Genus:** Eugenia  
**Species:** paniculata  

**General Information:** Eugenia is a large group of plants, some native and some non-native, including evergreen trees and shrubs, some of which have been reclassified to the genus Syzygium. The evergreen leaves are firm and glossy, and the flowers white. It is the dried buds of Eugenia aromatica (Syzygium aromaticum) which become the fragrant “herb” cloves. The flowers are followed by the production of berries, some types of which are edible. All these traits - the attractive foliage, flowers, and berries - help make Eugenia a popular landscape choice in warm climate areas, such as California, Florida, and Hawaii. Eugenia confusa (Ironwood, Red Stopper) is native to Florida and grows to about 35 feet and is well suited for street tree and parking lot planting. Eugenia foetida (Spanish Stopper) is also native and grows to about 15 feet tall.

A sub-tropical evergreen, with dark green ovate leaves formed in pairs. In spring, may bear small white flowers followed by red, edible fruit. With the exception of jaboticaba, Eugenia species have red, flaking bark. Surinam cherry is used extensively as a hedge plant in the Southern US.

Brush Cherries are ideally suited for bonsai. There are many different varieties that are natural dwarfs. These varieties have very small leaves and slow growth habits. Types of Brush Cherries include, Australian Dwarf Brush Cherry, and 'Teenie Genie' Brush Cherry, to name a few. In the proper conditions some Brush Cherries form a small cream colored ball that later opens into a beautiful starburst bloom. Barbados and Weeping Barbados Cherries form strands of bright pink flowers. Brush Cherries should be kept indoors all year round. With a few simple guidelines your Brush Cherry bonsai can be grown without difficulty.

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**CARE**

**General Care:**

- **Temperature:** Never below 40°F. Generally hardy in zones 10B and 11, otherwise can successfully be grown indoors. In summer, Eugenia likes the heat, while it prefers winter temperatures between 46-68°F. Eugenia does not like draughts or a lot of variation in temperature.

- **Lighting:** Full sun to part shade. Appreciates a bright position, about 1500 Lux, but can tolerate low light. If placed outdoors in summer, can usually tolerate full sun, although partial shade is recommended in the hottest areas. Brush Cherry bonsai grow well in either direct or indirect sunlight. We prefer to grow Brush Cherry in shady areas, out of the hot afternoon sun. Sometimes the direct afternoon sun can burn delicate leaves, especially when shining through a household window. Direct morning sunlight is great for almost all bonsai because of its low intensity.

- **Watering:** Brush Cherries, as with most bonsai, like to dry out between waterings. Feel the soil every day. If there is a rock in the planting lift it up and feel under it, otherwise, just stick your finger about a half of an inch to an inch into the soil. If the soil feels dry, water your bonsai. Never let your bonsai go totally dry for extended periods!!! The best way to water your bonsai is to soak it in a sink or container of water up to the trunk for about 5 to 10 minutes. Then allow it to drain. If top watering your bonsai, water, wait a few minutes, and water again. Repeat this several times to insure that your bonsai has received a thorough watering. Eventually you will be able to determine a watering schedule that meets your climate conditions. Water generously in summer, less in winter. Surinam cherry does not like variations in watering, preferring a consistently slight moisture to being soaked and allowed to dry out. Lesniewicz recommends that Australian Brush cherry dry a little between waterings, but some posts testify that it will drop leaves if the soil dries.

- **Humidity:** Humidity around your Brush Cherry bonsai may be maintained by the use of a humidity tray or plate filled with stones and water. Your bonsai can be placed on top of the stones in the tray. The tray or plate will also offer protection from the draining water of your freshly watered bonsai. Misting once a day will also help…but remember, misting is not a replacement for watering. Use distilled/rain water if your water is hard, as Eugenia does not tolerate salt.

- **Fertilizing:** Every 2 weeks during heavy growth, and every 4-5 in winter. We recommend using an organic liquid fertilizer such as a fish emulsion or an organic seaweed fertilizer. Chemical fertilizers may be used but should be diluted to approximately one half strength so that valuable roots are not damaged. Organic pellets may also be used along with regular fertilizers. Eugenia likes a slightly acid soil, so the occasional use of Miracid is recommended.

- **Flower/Fruit:** The brush cherry develops white to cream colored flowers usually in the spring and summer. The fruits develop several months later and vary in color from yellow to a dark red or black. Most of the varieties have a round fruit but some are ribbed much like a pumpkin. The fruit of most varieties is edible, although very acidic.

- **Pruning / Training:** Can be pruned back hard, as it is a vigorous grower. Shorten new shoots with 6-8 pairs of leaves to 1-2 pairs. Can be wired while in active growth, but better shaping results are achieved with pruning. Protect the branches, as they scar easily. Leaf pruning can be done in summer on strong plants, but is not generally advised, as better leaf reduction results from timely pruning, and this plant has relatively small leaves in the first place. It is suitable for all styles, and for all but the largest sizes.

- **Insects / Pests:** Scale, mealy bug, Caribbean fruit fly, aphids, red spider. Psyllids limit the tree’s usefulness in parts of California.

- **Propagation:** By cuttings in summer, seeds in fall, air-layering.

- **Repotting:** Every two years in early to mid-spring. Bottom heat helps to encourage root growth. Minimum night temperatures low to mid 60’s°F. Use basic well draining bonsai soil, or an acid mix like azalea soil. Some species of Eugenia do not tolerate severe root pruning, do your homework and research this further, so use caution not to prune roots back too far when repotting.