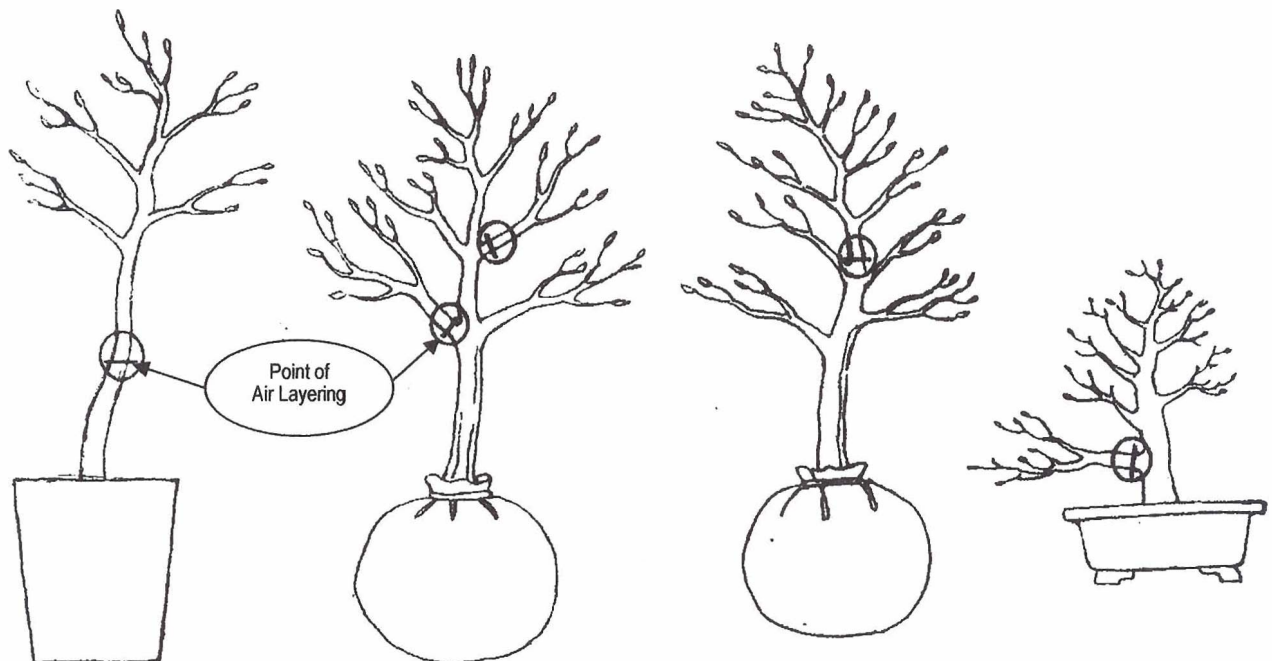


March 24th BTC

Propagation by Air Layering Workshop Ski Dombrovski

I always hear the question –Where do you get stock suitable for bonsai ? You might already have more of it in your possession than you realize. Also a lot of balled or container grown nursery stock which we would call unsuitable for bonsai because it is too big, too tall , has no lower branches or has no trunk movement etc., still could be useable. By air layering we can shorten a trunk or use suitable side branches or tops to create a bonsai in a reasonably short amount of time.



trunk too long
nursery stock
or existing
bonsai

poor branch
structure along
trunk but good
side branches
nursery stock
or existing bonsai

too large
nursery stock
or existing
bonsai

bonsai with
sacrifice branch

Suitable stock – should be in good condition, showing strong bud swelling, near bud burst or leaves starting to come out

Tools and extras needed - grafting knife, utility knife or Xacto knife
rooting hormone and cutting dip solution
long strand sphagnum moss
trimming shears or light pruning shears

Ski will provide any other needed materials.

Some trees commonly grown for bonsai suitable for air layering

**Azalea
Barberry
Beech
Cedar
Crab-apple
Crape myrtle
Cypress (hinoki included)
Dogwood
Elm
Euonymus
Firethorne
Hawthorne
Hornbeam
Juniper
Larch
Ginko (small branches or trunks ½ - ¾ in. dia. only)
Maples (all varieties)
Mulberry
Pear
White pine (Jap 5 needle pine only)
Chinese quince (not shrub varieties)
Spruce
Styrax
Willow
Wisteria
Yew**