

Below are images of 42 (of the 63) trees in the Japanese Collection of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.








See instructions for ranking at the end of page 6 below; this is a self-directed activity since our meeting in April-2020 is canceled due to the current COVID-19 situation.











The first 42 images can be viewed full-screen by clicking on the top-most left image of the gallery images at:











<https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/collections#Japanese> (scroll down 2 screens to get to the gallery images).













- Hovering your cursor over the image when in full-screen mode, shows the text capture to the right of the thumbnail images below.
- The numbering scheme presented below is for the Badger Bonsai Society ranking activity only.
- Moving the cursor to the left or right of the image will allow you to navigate to the prior or next image in the gallery.
- Expanded details and a separate link is provided for image #43 (same tree as image #2)

Images and text from the website are used with permissions from the National Bonsai Foundation.

	<p>#1: "Japanese Black Pine" Pinus thunbergii In training since 1895. Gift of Saichi Suzuki, 1976. The Japanese bonsai gift to the United States in honor of our bicentennial included 50 trees to represent the states, one of which had to be the same age as the country. This bonsai was chosen as the first tree because it was believed to be about 200 years old at the time of the dedication in 1976. It was originally collected from the Atsumi peninsula, southwest of Tokyo.</p>		<p>#2: "Japanese white pine" Pinus parviflora 'Miyajima' In training since 1625. Gift of Masaru Yamaki, 1976. This is the oldest bonsai in the Museum and was in the same family in Japan from the time it was created almost 400 years ago until gifted to the U.S. in 1976.</p> <p>See image #43 of this document for additional details and history of this, "The Hiroshima Tree"</p>
	<p>#3: "Japanese white pine" Pinus parviflora Gift of Daizo Iwasaki, 1976. One of the most important elements of a bonsai is the quality of its surface roots. This pine has especially dramatic ones that seem to grab the earth</p>		<p>#4: "Red Ezo spruce" Picea glehnii In training since 1925. Gift of Tokuei Tanaka, 1976. When this tree was collected in Japan, it was probably about 120 years old. It is difficult to know the exact age of a bonsai that first grew in the wild.</p>
	<p>#5: "Hinoki-cypress" Chamaecyparis obtusa In training since 1875. Gift of Shuhei Nagai, 1976. The way the bonsai artist thinned and shaped the foliage on this tree helps create the appearance of an ancient tree, which is a primary goal in bonsai.</p>		<p>#6: "Cryptomeria " Cryptomeria japonica In training since 1905. Gift of Eisaku Sato, 1976. This bonsai suggests a peaceful garden forest near a place of worship. In Japan, one often finds a temple or shrine nestled within a shady cryptomeria grove in the countryside.</p>
	<p>#7: "Thorny elaeagnus" Elaeagnus pungens In training since 1825. Gift of Teisuke Takahashi, 1976. Look for berries in the springtime on this flowering and fruiting shrub. Started from a cutting in 1825, this plant has been cultivated as a bonsai through its entire life.</p>		<p>#8: "Sargent juniper" Juniperus chinensis var. Sargentii In training since 1905. Gift of Kenichi Oguchi, 1976. The design of the museum logo was inspired by this bonsai with its rhythmic lines of dead wood contrasting with green foliage pads.</p>

	<p>#9: "Japanese wisteria" <i>Wisteria floribunda</i> In training since 1925. Gift of Kihei Tamura, 1976. Wisteria does not produce fine twigs, so it takes an especially skilled bonsai artist to create dense foliage when shaping it into a bonsai.</p>		<p>#10: "Japanese zelkova" <i>Zelkova serrata</i> In training since 1895. Gift of Yoshibumi Itoigawa, 1976. This bonsai is only 4 feet tall, yet it gives the appearance of a giant tree with a thick trunk, powerful surface roots, and tapered branching.</p>
	<p>#11: "Toringo crabapple" <i>Malus toringo</i> In training since 1905. Gift of Shu'ichi Ueda, 1976. This crabapple has four season interest: white blossoms in spring; bright green leaves in summer; yellow fruits in autumn; and when its leaves fall in winter, the bent and craggy silhouette of an aged tree.</p>		<p>#12: "Japanese beech" <i>Fagus crenata</i> In training since 1946. Gift of Kiyoshi Kawamata, 1976. This is an example of the classical forest style where you feel as if you are inside the forest looking out—the trees nearest you appear un-obstructed and large; the ones in back are smaller.</p>
	<p>#13: "Ginkgo" <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> In training since 1926. Gift of Kiku Shinkai, 1976. Ginkgo bonsai make their best show in autumn when their bright green leaves gradually turn a brilliant golden yellow.</p>		<p>#14: "Ginkgo " <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> In training since 1896. Gift of Masayuki Fujio, 1976. Bulbous growths, known as chi chi, typically appear on older ginkgo trees like this bonsai. From these, arial roots may develop to help the tree survive in times of environmental stress.</p>
	<p>#15: Chinese-quince" <i>Pseudocydonia sinensis</i> In training since 1875. Gift of Etsusaburo Shiina, 1976. The techniques of bonsai can, in some species, reduce the size of the leaves, but fruit and flowers remain the same size as those on trees growing naturally. This quince produces 5-inch fruits.</p>		<p>#16: "Higo camellia" <i>Camellia japonica</i>. (Higo Group) 'Yamato-nishiki' In training since 1876. Gift of Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumiai, Kyushu Branch (Nippon Bonsai Growers Cooperative), 1976. The flowers of the Higo camellia are distinctive for the bold sunburst pattern of yellow stamens at the center of the petals. In Japan, these winter blossoms are associated with the bravery of samurai.</p>
	<p>#17: "Trident maple" <i>Acer buergerianum</i> In training since 1856. Gift of Tanekichi Isozaki, 1976. This masterpiece bonsai shows the artist's expertise in training a seedling to become a majestic tree with flaring surface roots, a powerful trunk tapering gracefully to the apex, and horizontal branches with finely articulated twigging.</p>		<p>#18: "Trident maple" <i>Acer buergerianum</i> In training since 1916. Gift of Takeo Fukuda, 1976. In this "root-over-rock" style, the artist grew a young plant on top of a rock, gradually removing soil as the roots matured. In nature, maple roots sometimes grasp a rock just like this.</p>

	<p>#19: "Japanese maple" Acer palmatum In training since 1906. Gift of Ryutaro Azuma, 1976. Japanese maple is one of the finest materials for bonsai because when cultivated as a bonsai it produces smaller leaves than if growing in the ground.</p>		<p>#20: "Japanese maple" Acer palmatum 'Kiyohime' In training since 1946. Gift of Akiko Matsudaira, 1976. Trees with fine twigs, small leaves, and spreading roots are good matches for smaller bonsai. Certain cultivars with these characteristics, like this one, are favorites for creating miniature scenes.</p>
	<p>#21: "Japanese black pine" Pinus thunbergii Gift of Goro Ito, 1976. The slant-style in bonsai represents the forces of nature on mature trees: strong winds, heavy snows, rock slides, or the need to grow towards the light are all reasons for a tree to lean.</p>		<p>#22: "Japanese maple" Acer palmatum (Yatsubusa Group) In training since 1946. Gift of Shintaro Abe, 1976. The small leaves, tiny twigs and strong roots of dwarf maple varieties make them perfect material for the bonsai artist whose goal is to create the illusion of a large, mature tree.</p>
	<p>#23: "Japanese hemlock" Tsuga diversifolia In training since 1926. Gift of Royal Household of Princess Chichibu, Japan, 1976. Japan's Princess Chichibu (1909-1995) was a well-known patron of the art of bonsai. She donated this hemlock from her royal collection as a part of Japan's Bicentennial gift to the United States.</p>		<p>#24: "Trident maple" Acer buergerianum In training since 1895. Gift of Royal Household of Prince Takamatsu, Japan, 1976. One of three trees from the Imperial Family included in Japan's 1976 Bicentennial gift, this majestic maple is from the collection of Prince Takamatsu (1905-1987) and was trained as a bonsai from a seedling.</p>
	<p>#25: "Japanese red pine" Pinus densiflora In training since 1795. Gift of the Imperial Household, Japan, 1976. It was an unprecedented honor for the Emperor of Japan to include a tree from the Imperial Collection as part of his country's gift to the United States in 1976—none had ever before left Japan.</p>		<p>#26: "Japanese yew" Taxus cuspidata In training since 1966. Gift of Reiji Takagi, 1998. This tree was originally collected on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. The bonsai artist has carved the dead portions to resemble naturally weathered dieback on an old tree.</p>
	<p>#27: "Needle juniper" Juniperus rigida In training since 1966. Gift of Governor Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, 1998. Before it became a bonsai, this tree was about 250 years old. It was collected from a rugged coastal area on the Sea of Japan.</p>		<p>#28: "Red Ezo spruce" Picea glehnii In training since 1939. Gift of Saburo Kato, 1998. This tree, collected and styled by renowned Japanese bonsai master Saburo Kato, was an official gift from Japanese Prime Minister Obuchi to President Clinton.</p>

	<p>#29: "Japanese maple" Acer palmatum In training since 1939. Gift of Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, 1999. A gift from Japanese Prime Minister Obuchi's personal collection, this bonsai has the graceful shape of a maple growing in an open field.</p>		<p>#30: "Japanese zelkova" Zelkova serrata In training since 1984. Gift of Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, 1999</p>
	<p>#31: "Trident maple" Acer buergerianum In training since 1919. Gift of Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, 1999. This shohin bonsai has been trained from a seedling to grow over a rock.</p>		<p>#32: "Satsuki azalea 'Korin' " Rhododendron (Satsuki Group) 'Korin' Training age unknown. Gift of Hirozumi Ichihara, 2000. Korin is a type of Satsuki azalea cultivated by bonsai artists for its small leaves and flowers. In June, the leaves will not be visible when it is covered in pink blossoms.</p>
	<p>#33: "Satsuki azalea 'Gyoten'" Rhododendron (Satsuki Group) 'Gyoten' Training age unknown. Gift of Shogo Watanabe, 2000. Satsuki azaleas bloom later than most other azaleas and often produce flowers of different colors on the same plant—a prized feature in bonsai.</p>		<p>#34: "Dwarf Camellia" Camellia x hiemalis 'Shishigashira' In training since 1950. Gift of Susumu Nakamura, 2000. The small leaves and flowers of this dwarf camellia make it excellent material for bonsai. Its semi-double pink blossoms usually appear in November.</p>
	<p>#35: "Eurya " Eurya emarginata In training since 1970. Gift of Susumu Nakamura, 2000. A member of the tea family, this evergreen shrub grows in thickets on mountain slopes, in rock crevices, and along seacoasts in China, Japan, and Korea.</p>		<p>#36: "Japanese white pine" Pinus parviflora 'Koko-no-e' Training age unknown. Gift of Daizo Iwasaki, 2004. The branches of this pine were grafted onto the trunk at 90-degree angles to create a style of bonsai known as formal upright.</p>
	<p>#37: "Japanese white pine" Pinus parviflora Training age unknown. Gift of Daizo Iwasaki, 2004. Note that in the slant style of bonsai, though the trunk of the tree is leaning, the design of the branches and foliage provides a feeling of balance and stability.</p>		<p>#38: "Chinese juniper" Juniperus chinensis Training age unknown. Gift of All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association, 2010</p>
	<p>#39: "Chinese Emperor-plum" Osteomeles boninensis Training age unknown. Gift of All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association, 2010</p>		<p>#40: "Japanese white pine" Pinus parviflora In training since 1832. Gift of Hassan II, King of Morocco, 1983. This tree was a gift from the King of Morocco, His Majesty Hassan II, to President Ronald Reagan in 1983.</p>



#41: "Stewartia, beech, boxwood"
 Stewartia monadelpha, Fagus crenata,
 Buxus microphylla
 In training since 2001. Gift of Toshio Kawamoto, 2001. Notice that 3 different types of trees grow together in this type of bonsai called saikai. It is a "living landscape" designed by Japanese artist Kawamoto, who introduced this style after the WWII.



#42: "Sargent juniper"
 Juniperus chinensis var. Sargentii
 Training age unknown. Gift of Doug Paul, 2015



#43 (same as #2): This Japanese white pine (*Pinus parvifolia*) is approximately 375 years old, and is the oldest specimen in the U.S. National Arboretum's Japanese Collection.

Also known as "the Hiroshima Tree" or "The Peace Tree from Hiroshima" (see book at <https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/bookstore>), was donated by the late bonsai master Masaru Yamaki, as part of Japan's Bicentennial gift to the American people in 1976.

The Hiroshima Tree was one of the most esteemed trees in the Yamaki family's commercial bonsai nursery in Hiroshima. In the family for several generations, the nursery is now a private bonsai collection. Former students of Masaru Yamaki now take care of the family's large bonsai collection.

On the morning of August 6, 1945 at 8:15am the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Masaru Yamaki and his wife Ritsu and other family members were inside their home. The bomb exploded about three kilometers (less than two miles) from the family compound. The blast blew out all the glass windows in the home, and each member of the family was cut from the flying glass fragments. Miraculously, however, none of them suffered any permanent injury.

The great old Japanese white pine and a large number of other bonsai were sitting on benches in the garden. Amazingly, none of these bonsai was harmed by the blast either, because the nursery was protected by a tall wall. A Japanese broadcasting company would later film the bonsai garden and report on how the wall had saved the bonsai.

See more details here:

<https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/collections#Special>

JAPANESE COLLECTION

The Japanese Collection began with the gift of 53 bonsai from Japan on the occasion of the American Bicentennial in 1976. The trees, which were from private collections, were selected by the Nippon Bonsai Association with financial assistance given by the Japan Foundation.

In the picture below, John Creech, U.S. National Arboretum Director, speaks at the dedication ceremony for the Japanese Bonsai Collection on July 9, 1976. Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State, is seated in the middle, at right.

The trees arrived in early 1975 in the United States and spent a year in quarantine at Glenn Dale, Maryland. On July 19, 1976, the collection was dedicated in a ceremony attended by many dignitaries from both countries. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was the featured speaker and accepted the gift on behalf of the United States.

The complete story on this gift of trees can be found in the NBF publication: *The Bonsai Saga: How The Bicentennial Collection Came to America* by former U.S. National Arboretum Director, Dr. John Creech. This book was published as part of the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Museum. <https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/bookstore>

The collection, now numbering 63 trees, is on display from April through October in the Japanese Pavilion that was designed by Masao Kinoshita of Sasaki Associates. In the winter months the trees can be viewed in the Dr. Yee-sun Wu Chinese Pavilion.



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The Japanese Pavilion was renovated and rededicated in 2017 thanks to the immense fundraising effort led by the National Bonsai Foundation.

April-2020 Badger Bonsai Society (BBS) Ranking:

Prior to Apr-27-2020, please submit your ranking of top 5 trees (from 1 to 42), as:

1 -- tree#; 2 -- tree#; 3 -- tree#; 4 -- tree#; 5 -- tree#

Where #1 is your favorite tree and tree# is the image-number from the above descriptions

Put this information in the comments section of the **Contact Us** form at: <https://badgerbonsai.net/contact-us/>

Also include in the comments, if you are a Badger Bonsai Society (BBS) member ... include your name. If you are not a BBS member, please include your name and City-State. No personal information will be shared.

I will collate submissions and post in the May-2020 newsletter and BBS website.

Thanks, ---Wayne