



York Bonsai

Basic Care Guide – Serissa (*Serissa Foetida*)

Serissa are a popular indoor bonsai tree that is also known as the ‘Tree of a Thousand Stars’ due to the large amount of white flowers they can produce. Some people have problems with Serissa bonsai trees yellowing or dropping their leaves but our easy to follow guide should help prevent that.

Position

Serissa need good light but try and avoid putting them in a window in direct sunlight as the air can be too hot and dry for them. They prefer a stable temperature and greatly varying degrees of heat can be one reason why they yellow and drop their leaves.

They will benefit from periods outdoor in summer.

Watering

Serissa bonsai need to be kept moist but like the majority of trees they should not be kept very wet as this can lead to root problems. It is best to water all trees from above as this keeps soil salt and mineral levels balanced. Submersion should be kept for it the tree has inadvertently dried out.

Feeding

This is one area where Serissa are very dependant. They are best fed weekly as they need regular nutrient intakes to remain in good health. If water and temperature are okay and the tree is turning its leaves yellow or pale green then it needs more regular feeding. A liquid feed is best for Serissa and add once a week when watering.

Re Potting

As with all trees re pot as the tree requires it. They will become difficult to water and the root ball will appear tight with roots spiralling around the sides when they are in need of re potting. Serissa are more suited to a soil based soil rather than Akadama type soils.

Pruning

Nip out new growth to encourage back budding and better leaf pad development. Care should be taken not to thin leaf pads too much as this reduces the sap flow through the branches. Hard wood on the actual leaf pads should be reduced infrequently but enough to encourage fresh green growth where possible to stop the trees getting 'woody'.

Our contact details are available on line at www.yorkbonsai.co.uk should you need any advice or assistance.

This guide is free to download but please respect the work we put into these.