Bonsai

Today on Gardening in a Minute: bonsai.

Bonsai is the ancient art form of cultivating tiny trees in trays or pots. It originated in Mongolia over a thousand years ago, but is known as a Japanese tradition. Although you may think this is a secret or complicated art, actually anyone can grow bonsai!

The aim of bonsai culture is to develop a miniature replica of a mature tree. The pruning and shaping of the tree’s branches and roots is important, but so are the texture of the trunk and the size of the container.

It’s important that all parts of the bonsai tree be proportionate. So plants used for bonsai should have small leaves, flowers, and fruits—or plant parts that become small when the tree is grown as bonsai.

Try your hand at this delicate and ancient art!

For more information about bonsai, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.