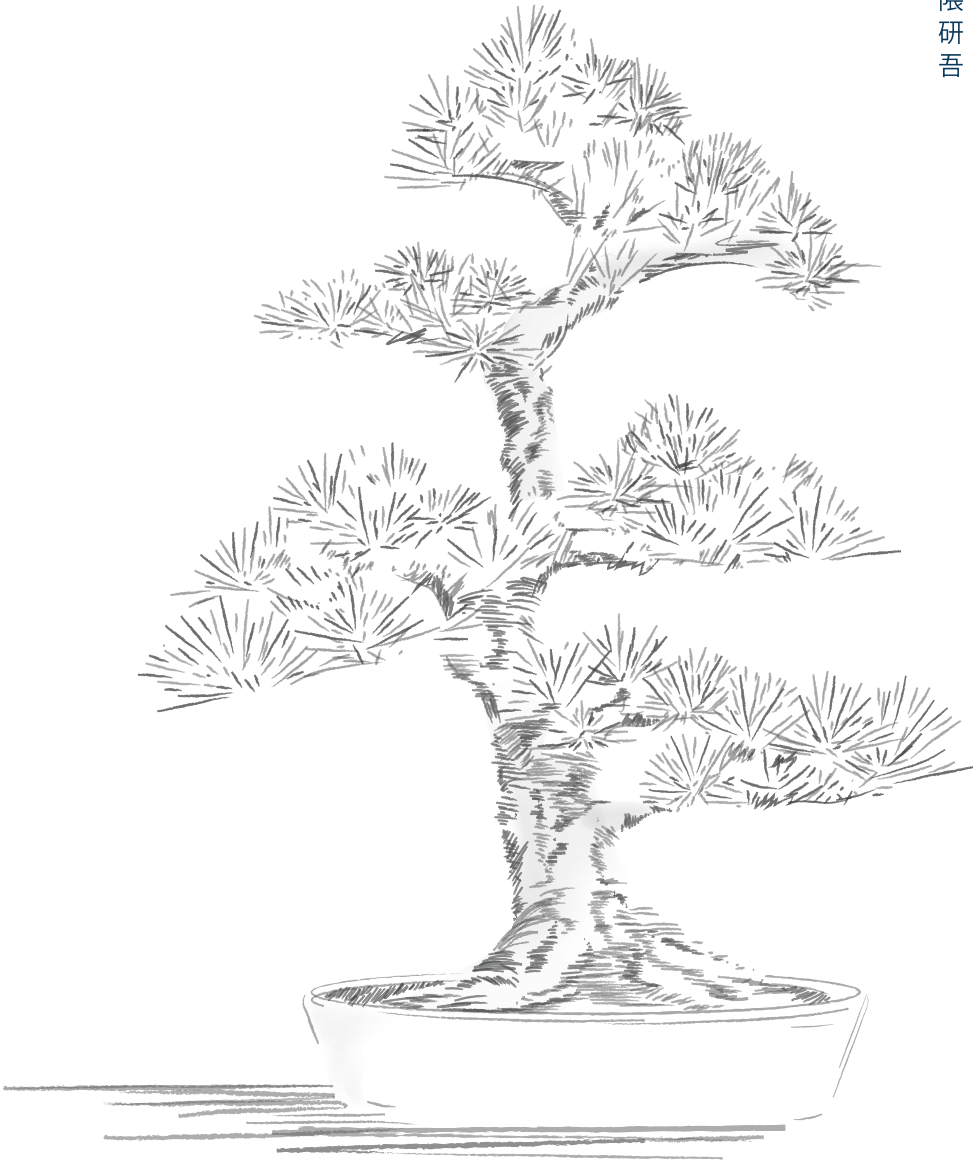


# Alberni

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## Caring For Your Shimpaku Juniper Bonsai

A Bonsai tree is a miniature tree planted and grown in a container. Bonsai, the Japanese art of cultivating these miniature trees has been an integral part of Japanese culture since the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. For your home at Alberni by Kengo Kuma, we have selected the Shimpaku Juniper Bonsai as a welcome gift, to complement your Kengo Kuma-designed outdoor terrace.

A species native to Japan and often found growing near the sea, the Shimpaku Juniper needs plenty of natural sunshine and temperature changes associated with the seasons, like a tree in nature. It does best when placed outside, year round, in a bright or sunny location with fresh air. During the winter months, protect the root system during sub-zero temperatures by wrapping the pot with burlap, sawdust, or other protective materials.

Watering should be done every day, especially in the summer. Because the soil layer is so shallow, it is prone to drying out quickly. Bonsai trees should be watered as soon as the top layer of soil appears dry. Little water is required in the wintertime, if any, depending on whether the tree is in a covered area or open to the elements. The important factor is to never let the soil get dry. Mist the leaves occasionally to maintain healthy humidity levels.

Fertilizing bonsai trees is necessary to replenish the nutrients in the soil. Use bone meal once in early spring, and again in early fall. Use Fertilizer Grade 20–20–20 throughout the growing season, once every 3–4 weeks. Do not fertilize during the hottest part of the summer, or if the tree is weak or has recently (2–4 weeks) been repotted.

Foliage pruning is essential for keeping bonsai trees small and for maintaining their compact shape. By cutting away branches, buds, and leaves, it encourages new growth and exposes the leaves underneath to air and sunlight. Typically, maintenance pruning is done when new growth starts to morph the shape of the tree in an undesirable manner.

Structural pruning is a more advanced technique that should only be done when the tree is dormant. Usually, most trees in pots require root pruning about every 4–5 years, in which the tree is removed from the pot and about 50% of the roots are trimmed off. Then, with fresh soil, the tree can be placed back in the same pot.

Daily maintenance is encouraged, however, BC Floral Gardens can provide additional care services (pruning, repotting, etc).

**For Bonsai Maintenance and Service inquiries,  
please contact BC Floral Gardens:**

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