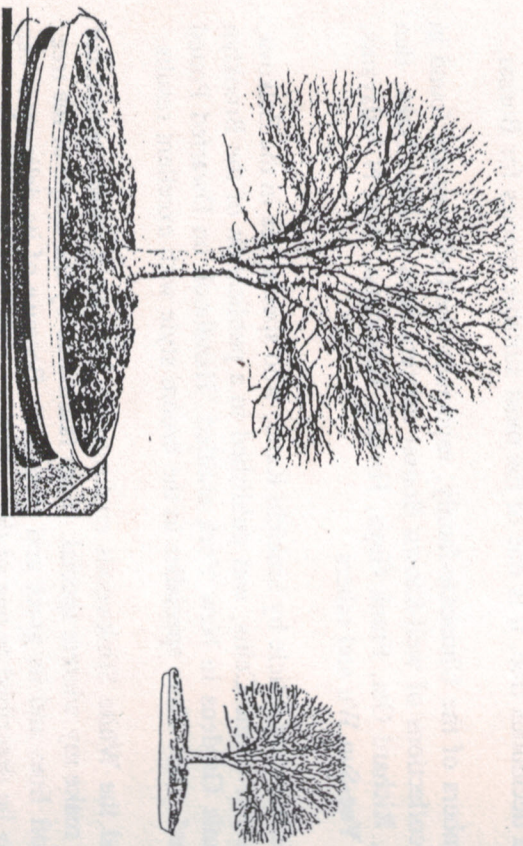




Owing to its delicate bark and branch structure, I prefer not pruning it as drastically as one could, for example with the wild olives, etc. The White Stinkwood should be styled as closely to its natural appearance as possible. Heavy pruning scars and knots should be avoided. This makes the cultivation of the tree so much more challenging and difficult, as it constantly needs care and attention to develop into its full potential. It can be compared to a water colour painting which cannot be repainted or fiddled with once it is finished. The artist should know his medium and apply it correctly. Something which has been botched has no value and should be consigned to the compost heap.

I don't wish to suggest that styles, other than the broom and natural style, are not suitable for the White Stinkwood, but, more about the various styles later.

II. FAMILY HISTORY

The White Stinkwood is part of the Ulmaceae family which includes a large variety of Elms, such as the Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), the Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*), the well-known Catlin Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia* "Catlin"), the *Ulmus sempervirens*, which is evergreen in warmer parts, as well as many others. It also includes the Japanese Zelkova, (*Zelkova serrata*), which can be regarded as the foreign cousin of the White Stinkwood, as well as the various other exotic *Celtis* species.

Research shows that there are more than seventy different *Celtis* species of which the Chinese White Stinkwood (*Celtis sinensis*) known to us as the "Blinkblaar" White Stinkwood or Hackberry, is the most popular. The American *Celtis occidentalis*, reaches a height of ± 40 m, while *Celtis bungeana* or *Celtis dawidiana*, which are rather small trees or shrubs, are ideal for Mane bonsai according to the Americans. These *Celtis* species originate in the northern parts of China.

Other well-known exotic *Celtis* species are the *Celtis australis* and *Celtis koraiensis* of East Asia. The Hopwood or Pigeonwood (*Trema Orientalis*) and Thorny Elm (*Chaetacme aristata planchon*) (pronounced Kai-tach-mê) are, with the *Celtis*, the three genera of the Elm family found in Southern Africa.

The indigenous *Celtis* genus comprises 3 species, namely

- * the well-known White Stinkwood (*Celtis africana*), also called the candeboo Stinkwood.
- * the Natal White Stinkwood (*Celtis mildbraedii*) - pronounced mild-brey-d-eye)
- * the False White Stinkwood (*Celtis gomphophylla*) - pronounced gom-fo-illa).