

VIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWTH

1. Soil Mixture

The White Stinkwood prefers a soil mixture which is rich in compost and well-drained. The finer the soil mixture, the finer the ramification of branches will be.

2. Watering

The White Stinkwood must never dry out completely and prefers humid environment. It should be watered once a day. Trees should be kept damp during winter. During the growing season, water should be given with care to prevent long internodes.

3. Fertiliser

I include bone phosphate and 2.3.5 in my soil mixture. This provides enough nutrition for the plant for the next season or two. During spring I regularly use Seagrow, Marinure or other liquid fertilisers with a high nitrogen content as a foliar feed.

Mixtures should, however, not be too strong as this can easily damage the plants. When a continuous fertilising program is followed, the dying back of branches is prevented, leaves do not turn yellow in summer or become brown around the edges.

IX. THE DEVELOPMENT AND CARE OF A YOUNG TREE

For rapid results young trees should be cultivated in large pots. The clip-and-grow technique should be followed strictly to form the tree within its required style. As the White Stinkwood tends to grow strongly in its crown, the top growth should be drastically pruned.

If strong shoots are not constantly pruned, the shape of the White Stinkwood can be destroyed in one season.

The tree should be drastically pruned every three or four years, to stimulate new growth and to thin out twiggy growth.



X. THE DESIGN OF THE BROOM STYLE

A clean, scar free trunk is of great importance to the style as unnecessary