

and phosphate fertiliser. Unhealthy trees should not be defoliated.

XII. TECHNIQUES FOR PRUNING

1. PRUNING DURING SPRING

As the trees grow actively during spring, new growth should be pruned back constantly. Younger trees should be allowed to grow at least 4 to 8 leaves before being cut back to 1 or 2 leaves.

The advantage of this method is that as the wood of the younger branches after being cut back ages, the buds mature and will also bud earlier. Scissors with a long handle are ideal for this.

If a tree has already developed to its full potential with enough twiggy growth, new growth can be pinched out with the forefinger and thumb, directly after the second leaf appears.

2. PRUNING DURING AUTUMN

Do not prune the White Stinkwood too drastically during autumn as long shoots help store reserves for winter.

3. PRUNING DURING LATE WINTER

As the tree has no leaves during winter, the structure can be thoroughly checked and faults easily detected. The twiggy growth can be cut back to one or two buds, while the tertiary growth should be in proportion to the secondary and main branches. A good hint is to place the bare tree against a white background so that the structure is clearly visible. The long growth which need to be pruned can then easily be seen.

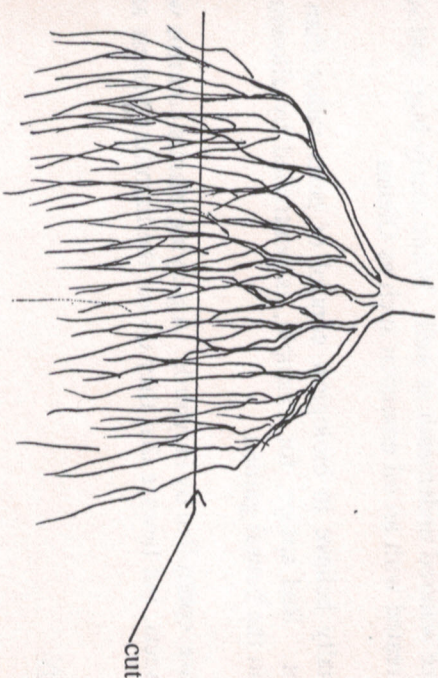
XIII. TRANSPLANTING

Every tree determines when it should be transplanted, according to the development of its buds. This will guarantee a 100% success rate.

A principle which applies to all bonsai is that the best time for transplanting a tree is when the dormant buds swell out, ready to bud.

A tree should never be transplanted when the young leaves have just appeared. Most of the transplanting failures occur as a result of this.

The roots of the White Stinkwood can be pruned drastically. A general rule is to cut back only one third of the roots. One should, however, always consider the quantity of roots, before pruning too drastically.



XIV. WIRING

As the bark is very delicate and thin it can easily be damaged as a result of the wiring process. The wire should therefore be covered with raffia first.

Only the main and secondary branches are usually wired to correct their