

Good bonsai portrays a grandeur and stature. This is expressed through power or elegance, sharp and soft curves (male and female). It is highlighted by features such as scars, hollows, jin, smooth bark, interesting colouration, etc. On the other hand, it must never be overdone. And lastly the mood of the tree, for example wind-blown, wind-swept or weeping.

CONCLUSION

Initially this may be much to remember all at once, but in time and with practice, it's like riding a bike.

The art of bonsai, however, is a three legged stool:

- The design – the idea, originality, finding and enhancing the essence.
- The ability – the technique, craftsmanship and ability to carry out the design.
- The maintenance – the dedication and horticultural knowledge as well as expansion and refinement of the original ideas.



THE WHERE, HOW AND WHEN OF RESCUING A WILD OLIVE JEWEL FROM THE VELD

JOHANN AND BERRIE RAS

WHERE

Wild olive trees are normally found in what we call colonies and are spread over all four provinces.

When talking to a land owner, enquire very casually whether there are wild olives on his farm and follow this with forlorn "May I amble around to see if there is suitable bonsai material and, if so, may I take out a few?" Promise that you will go to work judiciously and that every hole will be carefully filled.

As far as we know, wild olives are protected in the Free State and they may not be removed.

The ideal areas to collect old driftwood material are:

- a) On the banks of streams where erosion has exposed the roots and where the tree is partly dead.
- b) Brackish spots in the veld where trees are struggling hard to survive and sometimes have more dead wood than live.

HOW

For the day that we go out into the veld we prepare the way a hunter would – thoroughly.

Care is taken that tools are sharp – and I mean sharp. A wild olive root can be tough! This also applies to the bow saw, the smaller saw needed to get into gaps, the pruning shears and the pick-axe or stamping iron. The latter is an apparatus perfected by Matie Scheepers and a fair sized tree can be taken out within forty minutes using it. It is also important to take along enough water and old hessian bags or material (old sheets) as well as plastic bags. And