

- Lower branches should be bent to slightly below the horizontal while branches higher up ought to be more upright and be bent upwards.
- The distance between branches should decrease as you proceed upwards.
- Branches should be fairly straight to suit the style.
- The first branch should be the longest and subsequent branches each shorter than the previous one.

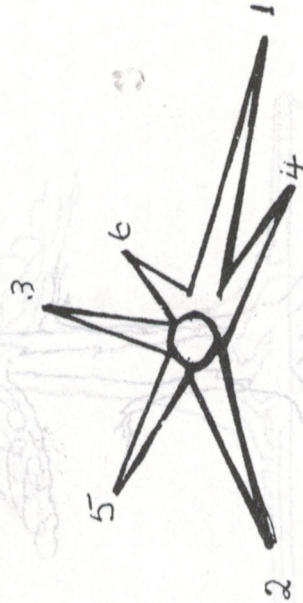


Figure 5

Which pot to use

- Formal upright trees are preferably planted in oval or wide rectangular pots.
- Oval pots give the best display if the tree has flowing lines.
- Rectangular pots complement a more formal appearance.
- The depth of the pot is usually equal to the diameter of the trunk.
- The length of the pot is usually equal to two-thirds of the length of the trunk.
- Pots with feet are usually suited to the formal style.

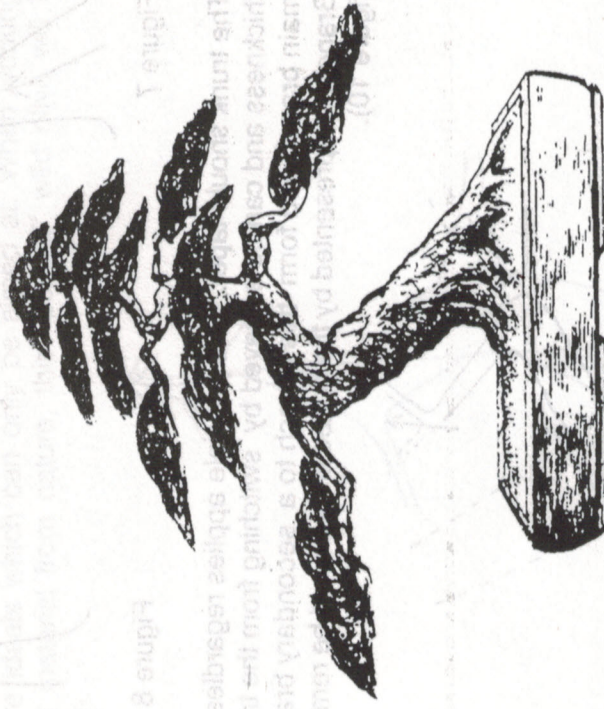
Placement of the tree in the container

- A tree with a symmetrical design, i.e. an equal distribution of branch can be placed in the centre of the pot.
- If the tree is asymmetrical with a first branch that is exceptionally

long, the tree is placed off-centre with the longest branch over the larger portion of the pot.

FORMING THE WILD OLIVE INTO THE INFORMAL UPRIGHT STYLE

The natural growth of the wild olive lends itself well to the informal style. This style with its many variations is probably the most popular of the bonsai styles and is likely to account for at least seventy of all bonsai trees.



Basic guidelines for forming the informal style

Form of the trunk

- The trunk should preferably start at a slight angle to the soil to give the necessary movement to the tree. The angle can of course vary according to the style that is being aimed at (see figure 7).
- Avoid trunks that start off vertically and then curve. This gives an unnatural appearance to the tree (see figure 8).