

## **JOBS FOR APRIL**

We're now into the second month of autumn and your deciduous trees will soon be showing colour.

Remember it is the combination of warm sunny days and cold nights that creates the colour at this time of year, so move your deciduous trees into an open position away from the protected area that they have been in throughout summer.

If your trees fail to colour it is probably because the leaves suffered heat burn through either hot winds or exposure to the hot afternoon summer sun. Some bonsai enthusiasts 'defoliate' their deciduous trees in December/January which removes the burnt leaves, helps to reduce leaf size, increases branch ramification and ensures better Autumn colour.

Any trees that coloured very early or dropped its leaves are probably telling you that they are in need of repotting. (Maybe it missed being repotted last year). All deciduous trees should be repotted yearly at 'bud swell' which generally occurs late winter / early spring.

Continue to fertilize until winter to ensure your trees are healthy going into the dormant period or 'die-back' may occur. I use a product like 'BLOOM BOOSTER' by Manutec (higher potassium and phosphorous and lower nitrogen). You should just about be finished repotting your evergreens as they require enough time to re-establish new roots prior to the onset of winter.

There is still plenty of growth on your Aussie Natives so continue to pinch prune to maintain a compact shape.

Now is the ideal time to prune and wire your Black Pines which can be cut back pretty hard every couple of years in Autumn, taking off most of this year's growth, back to only a couple of pairs of needles. Next years buds should grow from these needles.