

## **JOBS FOR DECEMBER**

With the onset of summer and that dreaded heat, now is the time to be thinking about precautionary measures to ensure our trees survive this harsh time of year

Any trees that dry out quickly require some extra watering attention during this time. Bonsai that are slightly root-bound, ones in shallow pots or planted on rock, Azaleas, Crab Apples and some Aussie Natives tend to dry out a fair bit quicker than other varieties, so keep an eye on them on the hot days.

If you have not moved your Japanese Maples and other soft leaved plants into a more protected area, now is the time! Very hot sun and westerly winds will cause leaf burn which will also affect Autumn colour.

Minis can be placed into a tray of wet gravel or fine sand (buried up to half way) on very hot days to prevent them drying out.

Enthusiasts can sometimes get caught out by an unexpected 40 degree day causing some minis to end up in bonsai-heaven.

Trees that you prune harshly should be placed in a shaded area to protect from the scorching sun.

Continue to liquid fertilize fortnightly until early summer, especially figs which grow right through summer.

Don't prune Crepe Myrtle from now as they are summer flowering and you will seriously affect the amount of flowers, however, continue to pinch out the new growth in figs and remove any large leaves.

Trident Maples and Elms should be pruned by allowing four (4) leaves to grow and then reducing to two (2).

Any seeds produced on Taiwan Maples, Tea Tree and Bottle Brush should be removed to save draining the tree of energy.