

CRAFT CORNER

'Bean size' bonsai

Growing bonsai or dwarfed trees is an art in Japan. The trees are raised, shaped and trained to grow in tiny pots. The objective: a miniature version of the original tree.

According to "Bonsai Miniatures — Quick & Easy," published by Charles E. Tuttle Co., the guiding principle in bonsai is "learn from the tree." It's not necessary to follow every traditional rule, says the book. With an understanding of planting and plant care, anyone can enjoy a bonsai garden.

The book is a miniature itself, filled with notes and color photographs of bonsai by Zeko Nakamura, a Zen Buddhist acolyte as a child, a comedian in Japanese TV and movies today, and a bonsai master.

Nakamura's bonsai are all between 2 and 4 inches high. The category is the smallest in bonsai, known as "mame" or "bean size" bonsai.

Although you can enjoy your bonsai from the moment you plant it, a finished bonsai is the result of

years of patience and attention.

Here is one, simplified way you can begin:

FINDING THE PLANT

1. Carefully dig up a small wild plant from its natural growing place. Take care not to damage any fibrous roots, but remove the taproot. Leave soil on the roots.

2. Wrap plant in moistened moss or newspaper. Gently carry plant home in a plastic bag.

PREPARATION

1. Choose a container, slightly larger than the usual bonsai container.

2. Leave fine roots, but prune



long roots to fit plant into the container.

3. Leave interesting branches, and cut away all others.

PLANTING

1. Place fine copper wire mesh over drainage hole in pot.

2. Spread coarse, granular soil over the mesh.

3. Place tree in the pot.

4. Place roots carefully. Cover with fine soil, taking care to make soil firm enough to hold tree in place.

5. Clean excess soil from pot.

6. Water plant.

CARE

1. For the first week, keep pot in half-shade. Spray with water as needed.

2. Place pot in the sun for half a day, for four or five days.

3. Move pot to a permanent place in the sunlight.

4. Water plant as needed; in summer, as much as five to seven times a day; in winter, once a day or every other day.

5. Fertilize as needed.

Pork month!

(Continued from Page B6)

SAUSAGE AND SQUASH BAKE

- 4 acorn squash
- 1 lb. bulk pork sausage
- 1 c. chopped celery
- 1/4 c. chopped onion
- 1/4 c. chopped green pepper
- 1 1/2 c. shredded Provolone cheese
- 1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Halve and seed squash; place cut side down in shallow baking pan. Add 1/2 inch water to pan and bake 35 to 45 minutes or until tender.


Brown sausage well; pour off drippings. Stir in celery, onion, green pepper, Provolone and Parmesan cheese. Turn squash cut side up; dot with butter. Salt and pepper insides of squash. Fill with sausage mixture. Bake 15 additional minutes.

TOSTADAS WITH PORK

- 1 lb. ground lean pork
- 1 c. chopped onion
- 1 jar taco sauce

- 1 t. salt
- 1/2 t. chili powder
- 1/4 c. sliced pitted ripe olives
- cooking oil
- 4 corn or flour tortillas
- 3 to 4 c. shredded lettuce
- 1/2 c. shredded Monterey jack or Cheddar cheese
- 1 medium-size tomato, cut in thin wedges
- 1/2 c. dairy sour cream
- additional taco sauce

In skillet, lightly brown ground pork and onion. Add taco sauce, salt and chili powder; cover and cook over low heat 15 minutes or until pork is done and flavors blended. Stir in ripe olives. Heat about 1/8 inch oil in skillet over medium high heat. Fry tortillas, one at a time, turning frequently until crisp, slightly puffed and lightly browned. Drain on paper towels. For each tostadas place a crisp tortilla on a plate. Top with layer of lettuce, then hot pork mixture. Sprinkle with cheese, if used. Garnish with tomato wedges and dollop of sour cream. Serve with additional taco sauce, if desired.



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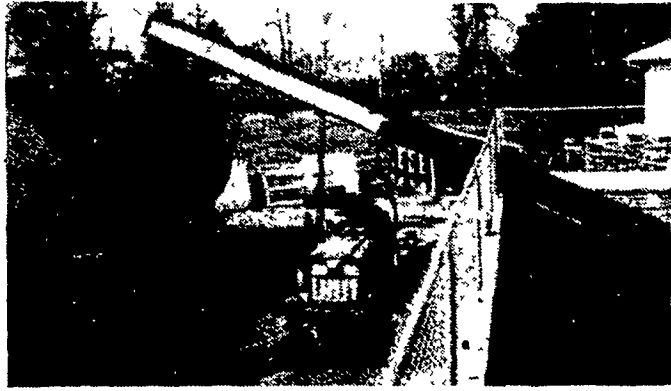
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