

Deciduous Bonsai - Leaf Removal

Notes from Andrew Robson's Zoom Tutorial April 7, 2021



Multi Flush – Southern, warm climate trees (if unknown treat as Single Flush)

- Trident Maple, Amur Maple, Zelkova, Ume, Chinese Quince, Japanese Quince, Chinese Elm, Crepe Myrtle, Ginkgo
- 80-90% leaf removal. Forces second flush of growth, doubling ramification and promotes back budding.
- Visible response – produces smaller leaves, shorter nodes.
- Shoot trimmed back to desired length, leaves cut along petiole, very weak, interior shoots left untouched.
- Leave a branch if you want to enlarge it, if you want more ramification, defoliate it.
- Only use this technique with long branches. Tiny shoots everywhere? - do not use this technique. Fertilize a lot!

Single Flush – Northern, cold climate trees

- Japanese Maple, Beech, Hornbeam, Stewartia, Deciduous Holly, Winter Hazel, Magnolia
- Cut leaves partially. Taking a leaf off reduces the energy to plant and gives more light to lower, center leaves.
- No Visible response. Does not produce small leaves.

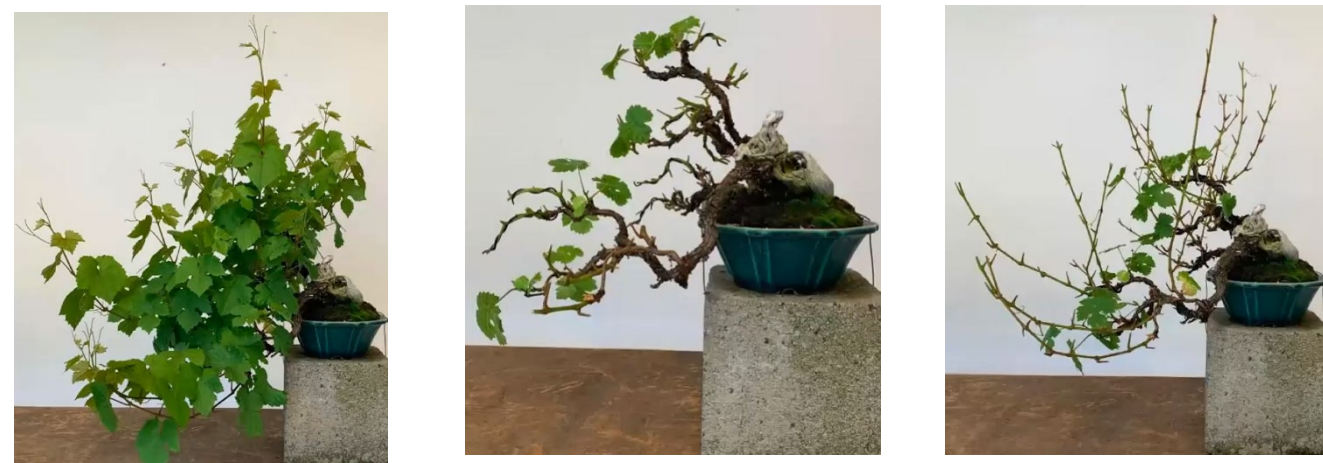
Alternate Leaf Pattern – remove all leaves but those on weak branches.



Alternate Leaf Pattern – cut leaves in half.



Opposite Leaf Pattern – basically same as alternate leaf pattern.



Opposite Leaf Pattern – One leaf of the pair is removed.

