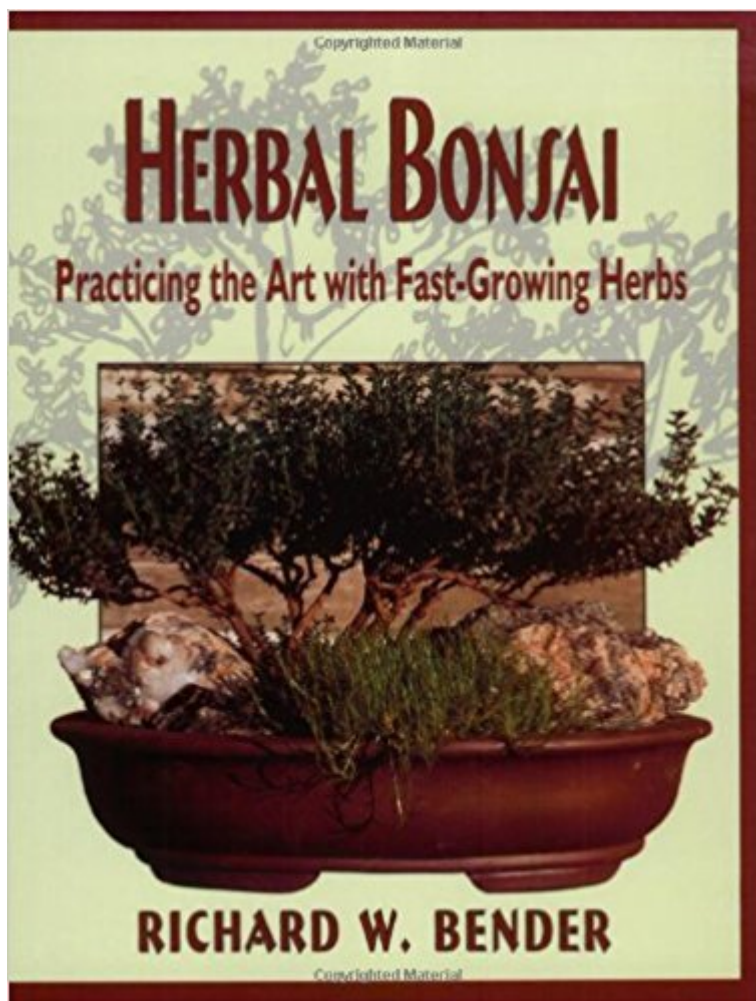


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# Herbal Bonsai - Practicing The Art With Fast-Growing Herbs



## Synopsis

In this book, horticulturalist Richard W. Bender shares his innovative technique, providing you with advice on choosing the appropriate herbs for the kinds of bonsai you wish to create. Practical instructions guide you through every step of the process: Training container-grown and field-grown bonsai; shaping, pruning, and wiring; choosing the right pot; dressing with rocks and ground covers; and caring for herbal bonsai.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bonsai, the art of training a tree to grow on a small scale in a container (yet to resemble a full-size tree), has a tradition thousands of years old, first in China and then in Japan. Traditional bonsai uses such trees as pine, juniper, maple, elm, and holly, which can survive for hundreds of years and take generations to develop. Bender's method is to use relatively fast-growing woody herbs such as rosemary, scented geraniums, and sweet bay laurel to grow mature specimens in only a year. He describes about 30 herbs that he recommends, dividing them into seven groups based on their growth characteristics and environmental needs. There are chapters on training an herbal bonsai, developing it in one growing season, potting and shaping a field-grown bonsai, training a container-grown bonsai, and caring for and displaying them. Bender also suggests ways to enhance the appearance of a bonsai using rocks, sand, gravel, ground cover, figurines, and the right kind of pot. George Cohen

The main concept of the book--growing bonsai in 6 months to a year from herbs like thyme and rosemary--may appeal to a few novices (and I consider myself a novice) who want instant results. But the results are mostly skinny, scraggly, unattractive plants that can hardly be considered true bonsai. The ugly picture on the cover just about says it all, with its oversized pot heaped with large rocks, totally out of proportion with the mess of twigs that the author wants us to call a bonsai tree. The quality of the book is redeemed somewhat by providing an easy introduction to the basic principles and methods of bonsai creation. It might be worth a look if you know nothing about bonsai and would like to grow some herbs on your kitchen counter or window sill.

I have already read many bonsai books, and this one didn't bring any techniques that I didn't already know. The herbs suggested (though not all herbs, per se) are relatively common plants. If you are a creative thinker and a bonsai enthusiast, you already look at things with an eye towards trying it out. If you're new to bonsai, and looking for inexpensive or quick growing plants to learn with, this book will be helpful. You'll want to find other books to teach the actual techniques though.

Very good basic guide to herbal bonsai. Didn't answer all my questions, but most of them. Feeling a little more confident about my attempts.

Great book!

This book explains in detail the best herbs to start as Bonsai. Since the hobby can be very expensive, it was refreshing to find someone offering a lower cost way to get your feet wet and try this out for reasonable cost.

greast book and great price: information inside this book is real good: herb for area of country you are very helpful to find

Why wait 125 years to have the perfect bonsai when you can create one quickly with herbs by reading this book. That is the theme of this book. It is an out of the ordinary idea, but from the very few pictures in here, not many of them really look liked true bonsai; so just realize that. The illustrations are mostly black and white line drawings that really look more like trees than the herbs that are used. Those drawings that do look like real bonsai do not identify the herb that can be used to achieve this. I wish more of the herbs in these types of drawings were identified. The 8 pages of

colour pictures do have the herbs identified and they look wonderful, but the black and white illustrations are often confusing. Included is an interesting history of bonsai, selecting and training the herb and how to develop a mature bonsai in one growing season. Caring for the bonsai and displaying it are also covered. Some sources with addresses are given, but do not include phone numbers or web sites. This is an interesting idea, but for the most part the finished plants do not equal or really look like traditional bonsai.

Mr. Bender attempts to reconcile the difference between growing trees as bonsais versus growing herbs into bonsais. Unfortunately, he gives no demonstrable comparison between the two. By refusing to show the similarities between the two styles he continues pushing herbal Bonsais to the fringe. Most of the photographs are black and white. The few photos that are color mainly show Rosemary as a bonsai. The remaining pictures greatly cheapen the book by them being hand drawn. The list of herbs that are capable of becoming Bonais are very small and lack any real pictures. The few herbs that are pictured have usually one picture each. The style in which he presents the Bonsais is all wrong as well. He trims them instead of shaping and wiring them and he displays them in pots that are far too big to be used on traditional Bonsai plants. The final conclusion is that this book is more inspirational than anything else. It would best be paired with a more comprehensive book on Bonsais. A good example would be [The Complete Book of Bonsais=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1335641209&sr=1-4](#)

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