

Saikei International

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GENERAL NEWS

This Saturday our president will be doing a demonstration of Saikei at the Eastbourne and Wealden Saikei club show. The demonstration will start at 10 AM and will last approximately 2 hours, David will also be bringing along one of the larger Saikei called peaceful gorge or as it is commonly known hernia one.

On display will be a fine selection of Saikei a demonstration of pot making another Oriental art forms. If you would like to visit the show please see the show section of this magazine or visit the Eastbourne and Wealden Saikei club website.

WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce that the visits to the website have increased over the past two months by around 20%, this has been helped by the hard work of certain members who have dedicated a large amount of time to improving the text and layout of the website.

When I asked whether the website was now completed I was informed that there is still a fair amount to do and that regional directors would be approached to provide input into the country specific pages thus allowing local members to access information relevant to their area.

If you would like to be involved please contact webmaster@saikei.co.uk with any information that you think may be valid for the local membership.

SHOWS

We have been invited to display two shows this year and we have included the details. If you are aware of any shows concerning Bonsai and Saikei we will be delighted to hear about these and we will of course put them in the magazine so that all members are aware. In order to enter an event we only need to know the name of the event, where it will take place, dates and times and contact for further information.

Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club Annual Show 2013

Stone Cross Hall, Stone Cross, Eastbourne.

22nd of June 2013

Bonsai, Saikei, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc...

Your Event Name Here

Where

When

Description

Your Event Name Here

Where

When

Description

PESTS IN SAIKEI

Whilst Saikei are easier to treat the many garden plant infestations it must be remembered that due to the reduced root system the effect of a serious attack may be fatal to trees used in Saikei. Luckily due to their size Saikei are usually very easy to treat.

A word of warning regarding any treatment used on a Saikei is that you must follow the manufacturers/suppliers instructions to ensure that you don't damage your composition or the ecosystem in which you grow your Saikei.

The key to reducing the effect of a pest infestation is to ensure that your composition is as healthy as it is possible to be.

TREATMENTS

There is a saying the prevention is better than cure one of the key factors to reducing the chances of an infestation is simply to keep your Saikei off of the ground on benches. This will aid in reducing the chance of passing pest wandering onto your Saikei.

There are two main approaches for the treatment of Saikei Chemical and Organic.

CHEMICAL

When mixing insecticide solutions, always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. If the solution is too weak then the infestation will continue and if the solution is too strong then you risk losing the trees in your composition.

ORGANIC

in the past decade there has been an increase in the use of organic solutions to pest infestation this includes the use of predators and sacrificial plants which provide a better source of food for the pests.

COMMON PESTS

- **APHIDS** - small, juicy-looking insects, usually light green, but can be white, black or grey, that suck sap from young leaves and flower buds. Most houseplant sprays will kill them on contact, but must be repeated every four to six days to be effective. Aphids produce live, female, pregnant aphids, so it is a challenge! Sometimes removing all the flowers and buds at the same time will make it easier to control them. Insecticidal soaps will only kill the aphids they come in contact with.



- **SPIDER MITES** - tiny, hard to see, look like very small, fine grains of white pepper on the underside of a leaf along the mid-vein. Later, fine webbing, which looks like angel hair on a Christmas tree, is seen. Spider mites are not insects, but closely related to spiders. They have eight legs, not six. An insect killer will not work.
- **MEALY BUGS** - look like little clusters of damp cotton wool, usually in a crack where a leaf joins a stem. Dabbing each insect with rubbing alcohol on a Q-tip will kill that insect but is rather time consuming! Very careful watching for months will be necessary to be sure that a stray insect doesn't take over again.
- **SCALE** - looks like a drop of dried glue on the stems or undersides of smooth-leaved plants. It can be scraped off with a fingernail. There are no chemicals that will kill scale established on leaves or stems. It is possible to kill individual scales by rubbing each one off with rubbing alcohol, but this will not kill them all, and they will be back! It is better to eliminate that plant, as it can spread to other plants and is all but impossible to eradicate.
- **WHITEFLIES** - tiny white flies on the underside of the leaves that fly up into the air when disturbed. Sprays are not very effective, unless you can hit them when they are flying. Try a sticky yellow card near the plant, and shake the plant frequently to encourage them to fly to the card.
- **POWDERY MILDEW** - is a fungus infection, which is most prevalent in cool areas with high humidity. As this is a common practice with some Saikei, it can be a problem. It looks like a dusting of fine icing sugar on the leaves and causes distortion and browning of the edges. Warmer temperatures discourage mildew, but over wintering plants need cooler temperatures!



- **VINE WEEVIL** - is a beetle that attacks a wide range of plants, both indoors and outdoors, but especially plants grown in containers. It is one of the most common and devastating garden pests. The adult weevils eat plant leaves during spring and summer, but it is the grubs that cause the most damage over autumn and winter when they feed on plant roots, causing wilting, and often plant death. Plants growing in pots or other containers, outdoors or under cover, can be severely damaged by vine weevil grubs. Plants growing in the open ground are less susceptible.

Symptoms

You may see the following symptoms:

Adult weevils cause irregular-shaped notches in leaf margins during the summer

The plump white legless grubs have light brown heads and are up to 10mm (about 3/8in) long. They are likely to be found among the roots. Plants wilt and die during autumn to spring as a result of grubs devouring the roots

Control

Non-chemical control

On mild spring or summer evenings inspect plants and walls by torchlight and pick off the adult weevils. Shake shrubs over an upturned umbrella to dislodge and collect more. In greenhouses, look under pots or on the underside of staging benches where the beetles hide during the day.

Trap adults with sticky barriers, such as Agralan Insect Barrier Glue, placed around pots or on greenhouse staging.

Encourage natural enemies. Vine weevils and their grubs are eaten by a variety of predators such as birds, frogs, toads, shrews, hedgehogs and predatory ground beetles.

A biological control of the larvae is available as a microscopic pathogenic nematode (*Steinernema krausseii*) available from suppliers of biological controls. Apply in August or early September when the soil temperature is warm enough for the nematode to be effective (5-20°C/41-68°F) and before the vine weevil grubs have grown large enough to cause serious damage.

Another nematode, *Heterorhabditis megidis*, is also available but is more temperature-dependent (12-20°C/ 54-68°F). Both nematodes can also be applied to garden soil, but give poor results in dry or heavy soils. They work best in open potting composts, such as peat or coir. Nematodes can be used safely on all edible and ornamental plants.

Chemical control

Ornamental plants grown in containers can be treated with acetamiprid (Scotts Bug Clear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer) or thiacloprid (Provado Vine Weevil Killer 2) as a liquid drench applied to the compost. These insecticides give protection against the grubs for up to two and four months respectively; treatment in mid- to late summer will control the young larvae and prevent damage occurring later in the autumn to spring period. Neither product can be used to treat edible plants or ornamental plants growing in open soil.

Gardeners with vine weevil should keep up their guard because stopping treatment after the apparent disappearance of the pest can allow numbers to build up again.



IN THE WORKSHOP – WORKING WITH SPRUCE

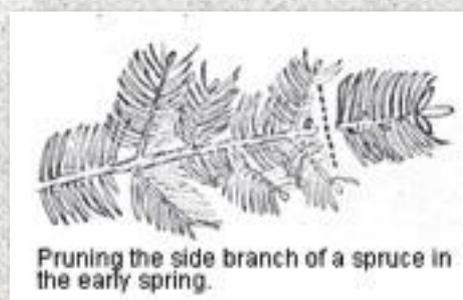


Repotting and Composition

Repotting should be done in spring before the buds have opened, do not repot in autumn! Alberta Spruce should be repotted every 3-4 years (2-3 for younger specimens). Keep them damp but not soggy. Feed them half strength miracle grow every two weeks in the spring, not at all in mid to late summer, then resume feeding with a 0-10-10 until mid autumn. As with other spruce, use a well drained mix, 5 parts grit, 1 part loam, and 2 parts bark. Providing enough preparatory work has been done Spruce can be added to a composition at any time of the year except the height of summer and the depths of winter but the root work must be light to ensure that the health of the tree is not jeopardised.

Pruning

Pinching and thinning the buds is necessary to keep the tree looking like bonsai. While they only grow 3' a year, I've found that when opening up the tree and letting light reach the inside, buds want to grow up into the branches above. Also watch branch length, upper branches will shade lower ones. To thicken foliage, eliminate the apical bud from each branch before the buds open. New growth is tender and can be pinched with your fingernails.



Training

Because these trees tend to grow upward wire needs to be left on as long as possible. One reference says they should be wire free going into winter, and not wired until we are frost-free. Another says that branches can be wired into position in the fall or winter. We suggest bending them down more than necessary as Spruce have a tendency to spring back into position.



VIEWS FROM A LENS—GALLERY



Gorge



Lakeside



Overlooking the beach



Alpine riverbank

SUPPLIERS

Name	Telephone	Address	Email	Website
Bushukan Bonsai	01702 201029	Ricbra, Lower Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5NL	bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net	www.bushukan-bonsai.com
Southampton Bonsai Trees	02380 495729	6, Farmery Close, Swaythling, Southampton, SO18 2JX	info@bonsai-trees.com	www.bonsaitreesouthampton.co.uk
Downsview Bonsai	01323 485656	126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ	info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk	www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk
Green Lawns Bonsai,	08700 347765	Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Nr Sudbury, CO10 5JH	enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk	www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk

CLUBS

Name	Telephone	Address	Day of Meeting	Website
Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)	01277 625 298	Shenfield Village Hall	1st Monday of each month call	
Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)	01323 731 369	Hellingly Village Hall	2nd Monday of the Month	www.eandwbonsaiclub.co.uk
Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)	01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632		2nd Monday of the Month	
Kent Bonsai Club	kentbonsaiclub@blueyonder.co.uk	Rough Common Village Hall	2 nd Wednesday	www.kentbonsaiclub.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

If you would like to have your local club details added to this list please contact the newsletter team by e-mail newsletter@Saikei.co.uk

CONTACTS

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