

# The Home of Takamatsu BONSAI

## Bonsai Technical Training Course Outline



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## ■ Training Overview

### Bonsai Technical Training at The Home of Takamatsu Bonsai

"Bonsai Technical Training at The Home of Takamatsu Bonsai" is a training program sponsored by the Kagawa Prefecture Bonsai Production Promotion Council that gives participants an opportunity to learn techniques directly from bonsai producers in the Takamatsu area.

The popularity of "Bonsai" has spread throughout the world. Its techniques can be learned directly from bonsai producers from the city of Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, one of the leading pine bonsai producing areas in Japan.

This program is not only for people who are engaged in the bonsai industry or who wish to work in a bonsai-producing center but is intended for a broad range of people, regardless of nationality, including people who simply have an interest in bonsai and people who want to learn techniques to improve their personal skills. The program aims to "develop human resources," "promote production area technology," and "disseminate information about The Home of Takamatsu Bonsai." Of course, beginners are very much welcome, too.

In the bonsai producing center of Takamatsu, you, as a trainee, can learn techniques and acquire knowledge about how to raise, train, and even manage bonsai each day, according to a plan that fits your wishes.

## ■ Bonsai of Takamatsu

### Kagawa Prefecture Bonsai Production and The Home of Takamatsu Bonsai

The history of bonsai in Kagawa Prefecture is long. This art is said to have begun 200 years ago in the Edo period, where native trees and shrubs growing in the mountains and along the coast were planted in pots and sold.

With very little difference in temperature throughout the year, and with long hours of sunshine and minimal rain, the Seto Inland Sea climate was suitable for pine bonsai. Also, since pruning, grafting, and other techniques used in the production of fruit trees and mulberry plants were available, bonsai production in Kagawa developed significantly.

The main producing areas are Kinashi and Kokubunji in the western part of the city of Takamatsu. While black pine (kuromatsu) is the focus, species such as brocade pine (nishikimatsu) and white pine (goyomatsu) are also cultivated.

Takamatsu is one of the leading bonsai-producing areas in Japan. Producers cover the entire process, from raising the seedling to training it into a bonsai. Thus, the area features many bonsai nurseries. Rows of bonsai decorate shelves, and bonsai are methodically planted in fields. The expansive landscape provides clear evidence that Takamatsu is one of Japan's leading bonsai-producing areas.

Also, Takamatsu bonsai are exported to Taiwan, the EU, and a number of other countries and regions throughout the world.

### Bonsai production in Kagawa Prefecture

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Area under cultivation (a)	1,216	1,216	1,234	1,202
Quantity shipped (trees)	80,000	79,000	74,000	58,000
Export inspections (trees)*1	14,885	6,105	8,349	6,922

\*1Number of export quarantine inspections performed at the Sakaide Substation of the Kobe Plant Protection Station (January 1 to December 31)

## ■ Training Information

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### ■ Course fee

5,000 yen/day (tax included). However, please consult with the staff if you desire a long-term plan having a 2-week or longer training period. Information regarding payment of the course fee will be included when the Training Approval Notice is sent.

### ■ Training period

Please choose your desired training period when you apply. Available training periods are shown in the training and event calendar (page 6). However, periods may change at the convenience of the trainer.

**Short-term plan** : Select 3, 5, 7, or 10 days.

**Long-term plan** : 2 weeks or longer (Please indicate specific number of days when applying. After receiving your application, we will make detailed period-related adjustments.)

### ■ Content of training

Training will be conducted under the guidance of an instructor at a bonsai nursery. The content of the training at each of the nurseries is set up to reflect the wishes of the trainee. If there is some specific type of training you desire, enter it on the application form. Some work varies according to the season (pages 4 and 5). This gives trainees options as to the content and techniques they can learn. However, certain options may not be available, depending on the convenience of the trainer and other factors.

### ■ Eligibility

Must be 18 or older.

### ■ Number of trainees

Up to 10 persons (in order of application) in a given period (2 or more overlapping days)

### ■ Bonsai nurseries and instructors offering training

See page 7.

### ■ Important information

- Training periods and content may change or may not exactly match your wishes.
- This training can be taken only by the person who has applied. Substitutes cannot take this training.
- Training may be suspended due to disaster, accident, or other unavoidable circumstance.
- Trainee will be responsible for travel expenses, insurance, and other expenses necessary to travel to each training place.
- If you desire long-term training and are coming from overseas, please ensure that your visa and other documents allow you to stay in Japan throughout the training period.



## ■ How to Apply

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### ■ Application period

Please apply at least 3 weeks prior to your desired training date. If you are from outside Japan, please apply for training at least 2 months in advance.

### ■ Where to apply

JA Kagawa Prefecture Fureai Center, Kokubunji Branch

744-1 Shinmyo, Kokubunji-cho, Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture 769-0104

E-mail : syunyou-en@shirt.ocn.ne.jp or kojibonsai1223@icloud.com (Hiramatsu Shunshoen)

Takamatsu Bonsai official website : <https://takamatsubonsai.jp>

※If you are from outside Japan and desire training, apply by e-mail or by using the contact form shown on the Takamatsu Bonsai official website.

### ■ How to apply

#### 1 Applying by mail

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Enter the necessary information on the training application form (page 10), and mail it to the address shown above.

#### 2 Applying by e-mail

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Enter the necessary information on the training application form (page 10), and then send it to the address shown above.

#### 3 Applying from website

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Using the Takamatsu Bonsai official website's contact form, enter "Application for Bonsai Technical Training at The Home of Takamatsu Bonsai," enter the necessary information on the training application form (page 10), and send it.

### ■ Admission

After your application is received, we will check and make adjustments regarding your trainer, content of training, and desired schedule, and contact you according to your preferred method (mail or e-mail). As we make adjustments, you will be asked to submit documentation that verifies your identity (such as copies of your driver's license and passport [if from overseas]). After the course content has been determined, we will send you a Training Approval Notice (PDF file if by e-mail) and course outline. If, however, you are from overseas, contact will be limited to e-mail.

※E-mail will be sent from the address shown under "Where to apply." Please ensure that your settings will allow e-mail to be received from that address.



## ■ Course Content by Season

Just as the bonsai themselves change with the time and season, so does the work that is involved in caring for them. Typical work that goes on during each season and events that are held in the producing areas are introduced below.

### ■ Entire period (March to June, September to February)

Throughout the entire period, you can acquire basic knowledge of bonsai (definition of bonsai, basic tree forms, basic management, ways to decorate, etc.).

### ■ Spring (March to May)

Spring marks the end of a bonsai tree's winter dormancy and the beginning of activity. In this period, buds begin to appear and bonsai transplanting is optimal.

#### ● Styling work (wiring)

Styling work, which includes pruning, wiring, branch training, shaping, etc., is an important fundamental bonsai-making task, as it forms the shape of the overall tree.

Wiring involves wrapping copper or aluminum wire around the trunk and branches in order to correct the direction and angle of the branches and to shape the bonsai to a nearly ideal form. This course covers fundamentals to practical applications, including basic procedures for wrapping branches with wires, as well as procedures for pulling branches downward and giving shape to bonsai.



#### ● Needle plucking/leaf trimming

Performed from winter to spring, this work involves removing unnecessary pine needles and leaves. Old pine needles and leaves from past years are removed to give the branch base more sunlight and ventilation. It also promotes growth and balances overall tree vigor and strength.



#### ● Bud pinching

Also called the short leaf method, this technique involves pinching or cutting off new pine buds in order to adjust the length and vitality of pine needles.

#### ● Transplanting

Once every 4 to 5 years when a bonsai's drainage has worsened, the roots are cut and the tree is transplanted into new soil. Over time, the roots inside a bonsai pot will grow long and tangle, and the aging soil will prevent air passage. Therefore, it is periodically necessary to remove bonsai from their pots, cut off unneeded roots, and change the soil.



#### ● Kinashi Green Fair 21

Large exhibition and sale of bonsai trees held in April each year for 3 days at the Kinashi Ueki Bonsai Center.

### ● Kokubunji Bonsai Center Spring Festival

Held in April each year for 2 days at the JA Kagawa Prefecture Kokubunji Bonsai Center. Bonsai exhibits, spot sales, auctions, and bonsai classes take place.

### ■ Summer (June to August)

Summer is the time when leaves grow thick and flourish. Buds are pinched/removed at this time to form the future shape of bonsai. Also, it is the season when water management must be given the most attention.

(Please note that training is not offered in the summer months of July and August.)

- Bud pinching

### ■ Fall (September to November)

Fall is optimal for pruning and styling. The shape of the bonsai is prepared for the following year. Also, events such as exhibitions and spot sales are held in the Kinashi and Kokubunji areas at this time. These events offer great opportunities to find unexpected bargains and masterpieces of the region.

- Styling work(wiring)
- Needle plucking/leaf trimming
- Shelf decorating and viewing

Methods used to decorate, view, and appreciate bonsai are important elements in the enjoyment of bonsai. A number of exhibitions and other events are held in the fall and winter, making it the exhibition season.

### ● Kokubunji Bonsai Center Fall Festival

Held in September each year for 2 days at the JA Kagawa Prefecture Kokubunji Bonsai Center. Bonsai exhibits, spot sales, auctions, and bonsai classes take place.



### ● Kinashi Bonsai Gardening Festival

Held in late October each year for 3 days at the Kinashi Ueki Bonsai Center in Kagawa Prefecture. Bonsai masterpiece exhibits, spot sales, demonstrations, and other events take place.



### ● Green Festa Kokubunji

Held in late October each year for 3 days in Tachibananooka Sports Park. Enthusiasts from within and outside the prefecture will enjoy masterpiece exhibits, shohin bonsai exhibitions, bonsai classes, spot sales, and other events.

### ■ Winter (December to February)

For bonsai, winter is a dormant season when activity weakens. During this time, plans are made for spring and thereafter, and styling, needle plucking, leaf trimming, and other work is performed.

- Styling work(wiring)
- Needle plucking/leaf trimming
- Transplanting
- Shelf decorating and viewing





## ■ Bonsai Nurseries that Offer Training



### Hiramatsu Shunshoen    Koji Hiramatsu

2365-2 Nii, Kokubunji-cho,  
Takamatsu 769-0101  
TEL : +81-87-874-0335  
E-mail : syunsyou-en@shirt.ocn.ne.jp  
HP : <http://www.syunsyouen.com/>



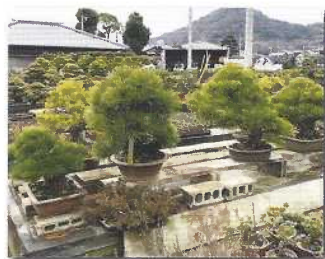
### Oro Kyokushoen    Satoru Oro

51 Sato, Kinashi-cho, Takamatsu  
761-8023  
TEL : +81-87-881-2846  
E-mail : oro.kyoku@canvas.ocn.ne.jp



### Matsuda Seishoen    Mitsuo Matsuda

165-2 Sato, Kinashi-cho, Takamatsu  
761-8023  
TEL : +81-87-881-2947  
E-mail : matsudaseishoen@yahoo.co.jp



### Seijuen    Kiyoshi Hiramatsu

1987-3 Nii, Kokubunji-cho,  
Takamatsu 769-0101  
TEL : +81-87-874-3052





## ■ Access to Kinashi and Kokubunji

### ■ From Tokyo to Takamatsu

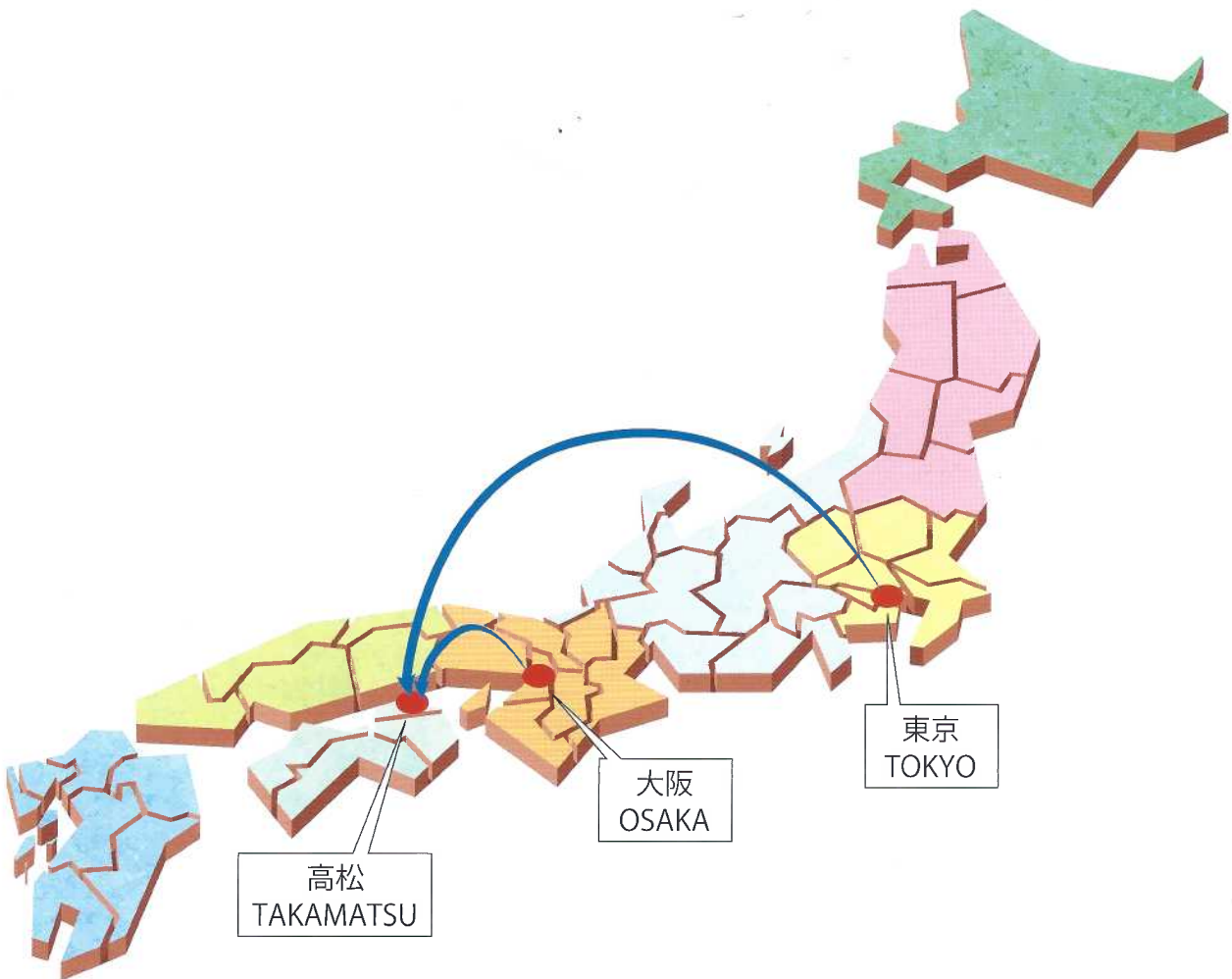
- Narita Airport → Train (1 hr 30 min) → Haneda Airport
- Haneda Airport → Domestic flight (1 hr 30 min) → Takamatsu Airport

### ■ From Osaka to Takamatsu

- Shin-Osaka Station → Shinkansen (1 hr) → Okayama Station → Rapid train (1 hr) → Takamatsu Station
- Kansai International Airport → Limousine bus (3 hr 30 min) → Takamatsu Station

### ■ After arriving in Takamatsu

- Takamatsu Airport → Limousine bus (45 min) → Takamatsu Station
- Takamatsu Station → Train (5 min) → Kinashi Station (Kinashi-cho) → Train (4 min) → Hashioka Station (Kokubunji-cho)



## ■ Training Plan Examples

### ● Person A, resident of Tokyo

Short-term course (winter : 3 days)

	Content
1/15	Apply.
1/29	Adjust training content, period, etc., with office. Receive Training Approval Notice.
1/11	Arrive in Kagawa Prefecture.
1/12 to 1/15	Train (Styling work).
1/16	Leave Kagawa Prefecture.

### ● Person B, resident of Beijing

Short-term course (fall : 7 days)

	Content
8/20	Apply.
8/27	Adjust training content, period, etc., with office. Apply for/receive personal tourist visa.
9/10	Receive Training Approval Notice.
10/19	Arrive in Japan and Kagawa Prefecture.
10/20 to 10/26	Train (Styling work). (Needle plucking/leaf trimming) (Participate in Kinashi Bonsai Gardening Festival and Green Festa Kokubunji.)
10/27	Leave Kagawa Prefecture and Japan.

### ● Person C, resident of Osaka

Long-term course (fall : 1 month)

	Content
9/25	Apply.
10/9	Adjust training content, period, course fee, etc., with office. Receive Training Approval Notice.
10/17	Arrive in Kagawa Prefecture and start training.
10/17 to 11/17	Train (Styling work). (Needle plucking/leaf trimming) (Participate in Kinashi Bonsai Gardening Festival and Green Festa Kokubunji.)
11/18	Leave Kagawa Prefecture.



# The Home of Takamatsu Bonsai

## Application for Bonsai Technical Training

Application date :

Name	
(in Roman letters)	
Date of birth	(Age :            )
Nationality	
Address and Postal code	
Phone	
E-mail	
Desired training period <small>(Check ✓ applicable items <input type="checkbox"/>, and enter applicable dates.)          (If long-term, enter number of days.)</small>	<u>Short-term pattern</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 days (            to            ) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 days (            to            ) <input type="checkbox"/> 7 days (            to            ) <input type="checkbox"/> 10 days (            to            ) <u>Long-term pattern</u> <input type="checkbox"/> days (            to            )
Desired training (content)	
Method of contact <small>(Check ✓ applicable item <input type="checkbox"/>)          (If you will be arriving from overseas for training, e-mail is only option.)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail
Questions/comments	
Do you have experience with bonsai? <small>(Check ✓ applicable item <input type="checkbox"/>)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



# The Home of Takamatsu BONSAI



## Bonsai Technical Training Course Outline

### 1. Sponsor

Kagawa Prefecture Bonsai Production Promotion Council

### 2. Course fee

Amount : 5,000 yen/day (tax included)

(However, this rate may not apply to long-term training plans that exceed 2 weeks in length.)

Payment : Payment must be received before training starts.

### 3. Training period

Short-term plan : 3, 5, 7, or 10 days

Long-term plan : 2 weeks or longer

### 4. Content of training

Training will be conducted under the guidance of an instructor at a bonsai nursery. The content of the training at each of the nurseries is set up to reflect the wishes of the trainee.

■ Entire period (March to June, September to February)

Throughout entire period: Learn bonsai basics.

Spring (March to May)	Summer (June to August)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○Styling work (wiring)</li><li>○Needle plucking/leaf trimming</li><li>○Bud pinching</li><li>○Transplanting</li></ul>	<p>(Training is not offered in the summer months of July and August.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○Bud pinching</li></ul>
Fall (September to November)	Winter (December to February)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○Styling work (wiring)</li><li>○Needle plucking/leaf trimming</li><li>○Shelf decorating and viewing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○Styling work (wiring)</li><li>○Needle plucking/leaf trimming</li><li>○Transplanting</li><li>○Shelf decorating and viewing</li></ul>

## 5. Course requirements

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Training will be offered to those who apply and then receive a Training Approval Notice.

※On the first day of training, please bring your Training Approval Notice and personal identification documentation (driver's license, passport, etc.) so that we can confirm your identity.

## 6. Nurseries and instructors offering training

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### ●Hiramatsu Shunshoen      Koji Hiramatsu

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2365-2 Nii, Kokubunji-cho, Takamatsu 769-0101

TEL : +81-87-874-0335

E-mail : syunsyounen@shirt.ocn.ne.jp

### ●Oro Kyokushoen                  Satoru Oro

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51 Sato, Kinashi-cho, Takamatsu 761-8023

TEL : +81-881-2846

E-mail : oro.kyoku@canvas.ocn.ne.jp

### ●Matsuda Seishoen              Mitsuq Matsuda

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165-2 Sato, Kinashi-cho, Takamatsu 761-8023

TEL : +81-881-2947

E-mail : matsudaseishoen@yahoo.co.jp

### ●Seijuen                                  Kiyoshi Hiramatsu

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1987-3 Nii, Kokubunji-cho, Takamatsu 769-0101

TEL : +81-874-3052

## 7. Important information

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- Training periods and content may change or may not exactly match your wishes.
- This training can be taken only by those who apply and then receive a Training Approval Notice. Substitutes cannot take this training. The trainee's identity will be confirmed on the first day of training.
- Training may be suspended due to disaster, accident, or other unavoidable circumstance.
- Trainee will be responsible for travel expenses, insurance, and other expenses necessary to travel to each training place.
- If you desire long-term training and are coming from overseas, please ensure that your visa and other documents allow you to stay in Japan throughout the training period.
- If trainee quits before the scheduled training period has been completed, no refund of fees will be provided.