

In My Garden

This Dunedin Couple Transforms Any Type Tree With Bonsai Style

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By Lurvin Fernandez

Tucked in the courtyard of their villa home, Darry and Paul Bova have about two dozen miniature versions of common trees. The couple, of the Village of Dunedin, learned about the Japanese art form of bonsai, a type of cultivating that trains a plant to stay small but have features of a full-size tree.

They have a variety of common trees, such as ficuses, junipers and bougainvilleas, that Paul has trimmed and molded to stay small.

Paul built a two-tiered shelving area for their bonsai trees and a watering system that automatically waters them twice a day for two minutes.



1

Fukien tea tree
Carmona retusa
Light: Full sun
Water: Light to medium
It has small dark green and shiny leaves with white spots on top and small fuzz on the bottom. Small flowers bloom year-round.

2

Juniper
Juniperus
Light: Full sun
Water: Regular misting
These trees either have scale-like foliage or needle-like foliage. Colors range from blue-green to gray-green foliage.

3

Chinese elm
Ulmus parvifolia
Light: Full sun to partial shade
Water: Regular watering
Considered the hardest elm, which is beneficial for carpentry. It is native to eastern Asia, including China, Taiwan, Japan and Vietnam.

ABOUT THE OWNERS
Darry and Paul Bova, of the Village of Dunedin, learned the wonders of bonsai in 2005 when Darry brought home a bonsai tree. The couple was hooked after a visit to The Villages Bonsai Club and they now own about 25 trees.