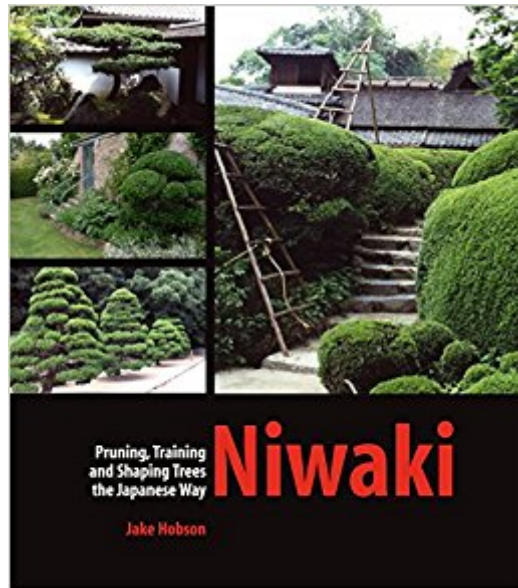




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Niwaki: Pruning, Training And Shaping Trees The Japanese Way



Synopsis

Over the years, Japanese gardeners have fine-tuned a distinctive set of pruning techniques that coax out the essential characters of their garden trees, or niwaki. In this highly practical book, Western gardeners are encouraged to draw upon the techniques and sculpt their own garden trees to unique effect. After discussing the principles that underpin the techniques, the author offers in-depth guidelines for shaping pines, azaleas, conifers, broadleaved evergreens, bamboos, and deciduous trees. Complete with abundant photographs, personal anecdotes and a wealth of advice, this unprecedented resource will inspire gardeners everywhere to transform their own trees into niwaki.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (57 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I have a very nice Japanese maple and a few other ornamentals and have been looking for a book that describes ways to prune to achieve alternative desirable effects. I have some excellent books on pruning of trees and shrubs, but this one is clearly different from the pack, and very good as well. If you are looking for guidance on how to achieve the look and feel of Japanese ornamentals, this book is the one you need.

There is a lot of information out there on bonsai but I have always been more interested in the Japanese garden trees and until this book there has been very little information out there on how to care for and prune Japanese garden trees and shrubs. As far as I know the author even

translated/invented the English name for them, "Niwaki" for which there previously was none. The best part of the book though is how the author urges the reader to apply the techniques he presents in the book to his or her own style of gardening transcending the idea of Japanese Gardens in the traditional sense. Get this book and "Get Stuck In".

Very good book for those of us who love our Japanese gardens and want to incorporate Niwaki techniques. Highly recommended book to add to your collection of books on Japanese gardens and their care. There's not another one like it on the market today. I love that the author is a sculptor and realized that his art could be translated into a living form of trees.

I love this book! This book gives all the information a hands-on home gardener needs to try this at home. For years, I've visited and admired Japanese gardens such as the wonderful gardens in San Francisco and at the Chicago Botanic gardens. I could not find any information on how it was done, what type of tree is best, when do you start pruning and all the details. The combination of sketches and photos is particularly helpful. I love the photos of trees in Japan in ordinary streets and homes, not just in famous gardens. The photos of the trees in training or wrapped for winter are fascinating - it's like being back stage. It's a great book.

I have been professionally pruning Japanese garden style trees for a long time. This is the first book that really captures what needs to be done and explains how the trees react to pruning. Aesthetic pruning is a mix between science and art. This book shows great detail of the techniques that are hard to teach. Scott Solomonson Living Space Landscapes Inc Minnesota

I love this book and it is already one of my favorites for Japanese gardening. It is also the clearest, most concise explanation of basic pruning techniques (why and how) that I have seen. I gave it only 4 stars for these reasons: 1). Although the illustrations are superb, the text needs to be flushed out more for practical use. For instance, in the section on training young pines into a Z shape, the illustrations are clear, but the height/age of the tree to start with is not mentioned. I have a young pine @14" high that resembles the line drawing, but it seems too short to start this process unless I am making a bonsai or miniaturized tree. What height/age range is appropriate for this technique? I would REALLY like to know. 2). Not the book's fault, but the seller sent me a beautiful looking copy that reeks of mildew. I am still setting it out in the sun trying to rid the book of the odor; it gives me a headache if I try to read it more than a few minutes, and I badly want to be studying this book!

This is more a personal story of the author's travels than a real manual on garden trees. I'd expected some useful technique instruction, but this was more of a travel book than anything else. Works ok on the coffee table, but I read it in one sitting, and felt rather uninspired.

One of the very few books on the subject- I searched quite a while. I was hoping for guidance on forming fruit trees, but found little here. Would have appreciated better insight into the book before purchase.

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