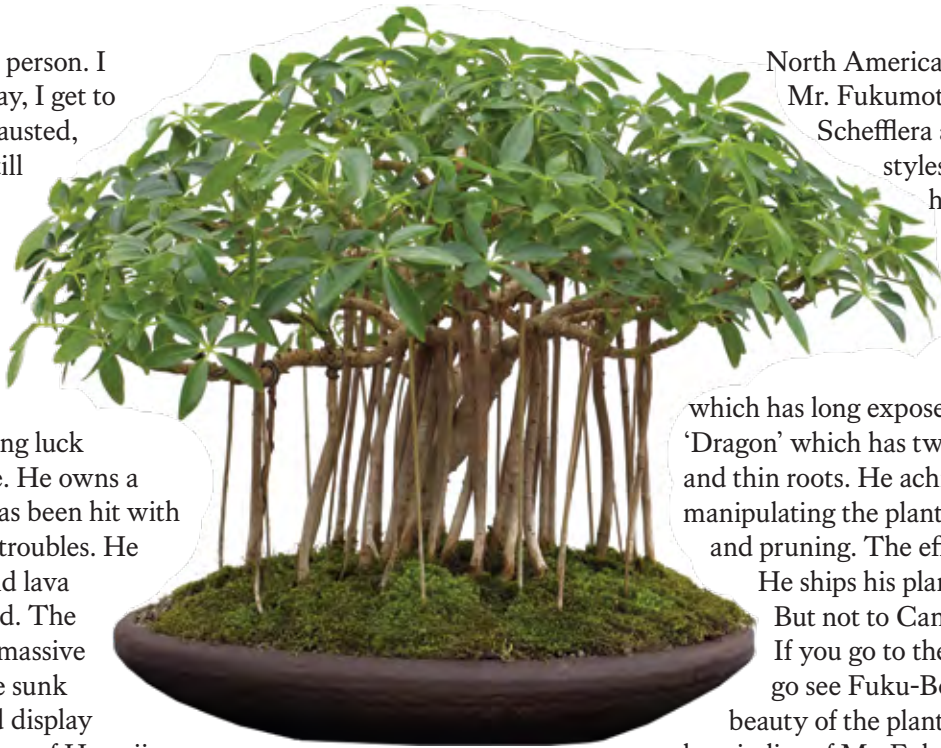


In the Garden

FUKU-BONSAI

I am a very fortunate person. I get to live in Mill Bay, I get to garden until I am exhausted, I get to travel, and I still feel excited to get up every morning. On a recent expedition to the big island of Hawaii I met a gentleman, David Fukumoto, who has had the worst gardening luck anyone could imagine. He owns a bonsai business and has been hit with a double whammy of troubles. He operates in the wet and lava prone part of the island. The lava stayed away but massive floods and a hurricane sunk his working sheds and display gardens. In this wet part of Hawaii many plants are affected by fungus and molds. Farmers spray fungicide to control the problems. Unfortunately that fungicide was contaminated with weed-killers and they lost a lot of plants. Through it all Fuku-Bonsai has continued to operate.

I love bonsai and I wanted to see his collection in whatever state they were. His company name is Fuku-Bonsai and you can check out more about them online. [http://](http://www.fukubonsai.com)



North American houseplants. Mr. Fukumoto takes his Schefflera and uses 3 styles to create his bonsai. They can be 'Sumo', which is short and stout, 'Roots', which has long exposed roots, and 'Dragon' which has twisting thick and thin roots. He achieves this by manipulating the plants with wire and pruning. The effect is glorious. He ships his plants worldwide. But not to Canada. Damn. If you go to the big island, you see Fuku-Bonsai. The beauty of the plants and the hospitality of Mr. Fukumoto will amaze you. So dear readers, you can tell where this article is going! I am going to buy some Schefflera and try his techniques. That way I can have indoor bonsai and I promise to report all the pratfalls along the way! Don't forget to shop at all the local church and community plant sales our area has to offer. Roadside plant stalls also have interesting plants. This is your opportunity to scoop great plant bargains and support our community.

www.fukubonsai.com. When we drove in it was an amazing site! He does not follow traditional Japanese bonsai methods. In fact he dismisses this approach as unHawaiian. He feels traditional Japanese bonsai is too rigid and too obsessed with pine trees. Mr. Fukumoto opts for a true Hawaiian approach by using the common houseplant Schefflera. This plant grows happily outside in Hawaii, as do many other popular

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