

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Chinese boxwood bonsai: small leaves, fine pruning and frost-free winter care

This small boxwood shows dense green foliage above a characterful trunk. As *Buxus harlandii*, it needs different winter care from familiar garden box. A bright summer position, regular root-ball checks and careful pruning maintain its manageable form.



AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: approximately 15 × 12 × 7 cm bonsai container · approximately 25 cm overall height. Decoration is not included; this is not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

Issue September 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Buxus harlandii (spelled herlandii in the shop)

Chinese boxwood bonsai: small leaves, fine pruning and frost-free winter care

This small boxwood shows dense green foliage above a characterful trunk. As Buxus harlandii, it needs different winter care from familiar garden box. A bright summer position, regular root-ball checks and careful pruning maintain its manageable form.



AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: approximately 15 × 12 × 7 cm bonsai container · approximately 25 cm overall height. Decoration is not included; this is not a product photograph to scale.

Botanical classification	Buxus harlandii (spelled herlandii in the shop)
Family	Buxaceae
Origin	China; bonsai cultivation offered as Buxus harlandii
Delivery size	Approximately 15 × 12 × 7 cm bonsai container · approximately 25 cm overall height
Growth habit and feature	Small evergreen bonsai with narrow leathery leaves and increasingly textured bark

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Summer position	Bright outdoors, protected from extreme pot heat	Small containers warm quickly
Winter	Very bright, cool and frost-free at around 10 °C	Harlandii is not a winter-hardy hedge box
Water	Water thoroughly after slight drying	A calendar ignores weather and container conditions
Drainage	Remove water from the saucer	The root zone needs air too
Pruning	Shorten selectively and gently thin dense areas	Inner branches should receive light
Fertiliser	During growth, follow the label rather than automatically feeding yellow leaves	Discolouration has different causes
Repotting	In spring, according to root-ball and compost condition	Fresh structure supports the supply
Inspection	Look for caterpillars, webs, leaf spots and wire marks	Damage detected early is easier to assess

Knowledge that grows

A small tree with dense foliage

Narrow green leaves sit closely on fine branches. Beneath them, the short trunk already has its own structure, which may become more distinct over the years. The offer states approximately five years, a container around 15 × 12 × 7 cm and about 25 cm overall height. This is therefore a small bonsai whose foliage and trunk are particularly attractive up close. Each tree is individually shaped. Container shape and colour may differ from the shop photograph.

Harlandii is not ordinary garden box

The shop uses the spelling *Buxus herlandii*; the botanical name is *Buxus harlandii*. It belongs to the box family and is used as Chinese boxwood in the bonsai trade. The garden-familiar species *Buxus sempervirens* is not the same. Winter care differs in particular: a bright frost-free place is sensible for *harlandii*. General instructions for winter-hardy box hedges would be misleading here. Small yellowish flowers are a possible seasonal addition, but foliage remains the main attraction.

Plan summer light and winter quarters early

During the warm season, a bright sheltered outdoor position suits it, with sun after gradual acclimatisation. Protect the small dark container from extreme heating. Watch the root ball particularly closely in heat or wind. For winter, choose a very bright cool frost-free room around 10 °C. A dark cellar is unsuitable despite being cool. The tree also lacks good winter conditions directly above a heater. Decide on its position before the cold season to avoid short-notice emergency solutions.

Check regularly instead of following a watering calendar

The root ball should be evenly supplied without constantly standing in water. When the upper compost has dried slightly, water thoroughly and let it drain. A small bonsai can need more on one warm day than over several cool days combined. A rigid number of weekly applications is therefore unreliable. Check beneath a dense crown that water really reaches the soil. Water more cautiously in winter while still protecting roots from complete drying.

Keep the crown open through targeted pruning

Carefully shorten long new shoots, leaving enough healthy leaves. In a very dense crown, selective thinning can bring light and air to inner branches. Do not continually shear every tip. Check existing wire for constriction in good time; bark marks often stay visible for a long time. Plan repotting according to root development and compost condition, usually during a suitable spring phase. A structurally stable bonsai mix with drainage matters more than a supposed special treatment. Feed according to the label during growth and pause during cool rest.

Yellow leaves are not yet a fertiliser diagnosis

The shop instructions mention iron and magnesium for yellow foliage. Such an application should not be automatic, however: wetness, drought, unsuitable pH, cold or insufficient light can cause similar changes. Check cultivation first and seek targeted specialist advice for unclear persistent symptoms. Outdoors, regularly look for caterpillars, feeding damage and webs from box-tree moth. Leaf spots and shoot dieback deserve attention too. Clean tools, air exchange and early checks help. All plant parts are poisonous; keep the bonsai away from nibbling children or animals.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop photo: Chinese boxwood bonsai. Approximately 15 × 12 × 7 cm bonsai container · approximately 25 cm overall height. Natural variation is possible.



Original shop photo: Chinese boxwood bonsai. Approximately 15 × 12 × 7 cm bonsai container · approximately 25 cm overall height. Natural variation is possible.

Good to know

Can I overwinter it like a box hedge?

No. The bonsai offered as *Buxus harlandii* is overwintered bright and frost-free.

Is it called *harlandii* or *herlandii*?

The botanical name is *Buxus harlandii*. The shop uses the different spelling *herlandii*.

Do yellow leaves immediately need iron fertiliser?

Not automatically. First check water, roots, light and other possible causes. An unsuitable supplement may worsen the situation.

Can a small bonsai get box-tree moth too?

Yes. In outdoor cultivation, regularly look for caterpillars, webs and fresh feeding damage.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

Product details, availability and delivery information are provided in the shop offer.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer