YOUR BONSAI BASICS TAKE-HOME GUIDE

You made a bonsai. Now let's help it thrive.

Dwarf Jade · *Portulacaria afra*

You did the fun part: choosing, shaping, and potting your own tree. Now the goal is simple: give it time to settle, learn its watering rhythm, and enjoy watching it grow.



Three things your Dwarf Jade needs

Good light

A bright window or a suitable grow light. Keep it out of harsh sun while it settles.

Smart watering

Check the original root ball below the surface. Water when it is **nearly dry**, not by the calendar.

Warmth

Protect it from cold. Bring it indoors before nights approach **50–55°F**.

Your first four weeks

Let the tree settle before doing more

Today + next 2 days

Find a bright, warm spot. Keep the tree steady and sheltered from intense afternoon sun. **Don't prune, wire, or repot it again.** If your instructor gave specific root-care advice, follow that first.

Week one

Check the soil before watering. Fresh soil near the pot's edge may look dry while the original root ball is still damp. A few loose leaves can happen after a move; watch the overall tree.

Weeks 2–4

Stay consistent with light and watering. Look for healthy new tips. Once the tree is settled and actively growing, you can think about light trimming and beginning its feeding routine.

How to water without guessing

01 Check

Test moisture below the surface; compare the pot's weight. If the root zone is still damp, wait.

02 Soak

When the root ball is nearly dry, water slowly over the soil until water exits the drainage holes.

03 Drain

Allow water to run out fully. Empty the saucer and keep the pot above any standing water.

Just repotted? After a light repot, water according to the moisture in the original root ball, not simply because fresh soil looks dry. If substantial roots were cut in class, follow your instructor's specific aftercare directions.

KEEP YOUR BONSAI GROWING

Simple care for the months ahead

There's no complicated secret to a healthy Dwarf Jade. Pay attention to light, water, and how your tree responds. The rest comes with practice.

Light & location

A bright south-facing window is a great starting point. If the tree stretches into long, thin shoots, it probably needs more light. A grow light can help.

Outdoors & cold

Your Dwarf Jade can enjoy warm weather outdoors. Move it into sun gradually, and bring it inside before nighttime temperatures approach **50–55°F**.

Water & drainage

Water only when the root zone approaches dryness. Then water thoroughly and let the pot drain. **Never let the pot sit in a tray of water.**

Your humidity tray

The tray catches runoff and protects furniture; your Jade doesn't need daily misting. Keep the pot above any water collected in the tray.

Feeding

The fertilizer you took home is for a healthy, actively growing tree. Wait until your Jade settles and resumes growth; follow the product label.

Pruning & styling

You already shaped your tree today! Give it a break. When healthy new growth extends, light trimming above a leaf pair can help build branching.

Noticed something unusual?

A few fallen leaves

Not always a crisis after a move. Check light, drainage, and whether the tree otherwise looks firm and healthy.

Wrinkled leaves

Check the soil first. Dry roots may need water; wet soil with wrinkling can mean the roots are struggling.

Long, weak new shoots

Usually a sign to reassess light. Increase light gradually rather than making several big changes at once.

THERE'S A LOT MORE TO LEARN

Read the complete Dwarf Jade care guide

When you're ready, explore more about watering, soil, seasonal care, pruning, repotting, and solving common problems.

bonsaioutlet.com/dwarf-jade-bonsai-care/

Scan the code or visit the link above.

A little advice from our nursery: Don't worry about making your bonsai "perfect." Get the basics right, give it time, and enjoy watching it grow.

Thanks for joining us!

The Bonsai Outlet Nursery Team

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