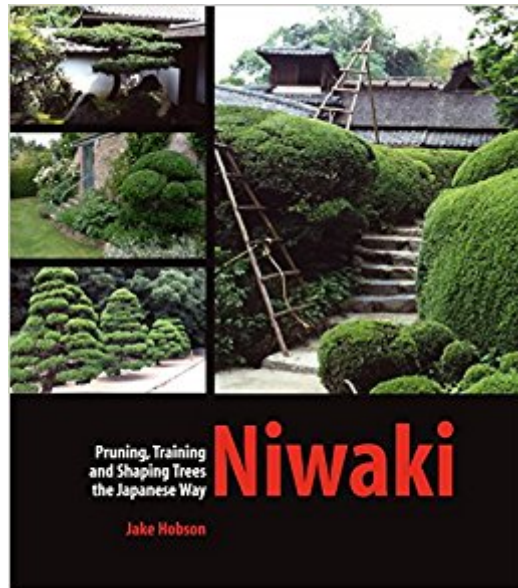




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# Niwaki: Pruning, Training And Shaping Trees The Japanese Way



## 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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## Customer Reviews

Hobson illuminates the practice known as niwaki in a fascinating, long overdue guide to shaping trees in ways that reflect the aesthetics of Japanese gardens. Hobson's regard for elements of garden design inspired by nature, and at times, derived literally from iconic features in Japan, shapes his writing. Possessing a sculptor's eye, Hobson ably opens the eyes of readers to the nuanced tree and shrub forms achieved by clipping or heavy pruning. Offering sound advice--do not imitate, but rather incorporate, a Japanese approach--Hobson elucidates principles and techniques with step-by-step line drawings accompanied by clearly defined descriptions of naturalistic and formal shapes. Instructions cover approaches to dealing with side branching, how to alter the line of the trunk, and how to sculpt pine trees, azaleas, conifers, broad-leaved evergreens, and deciduous

trees. More than a pruning manual, Hobson's guide encompasses the cultural implications of niwaki, an artistic custom integral to the gardening legacy of Japan. Alice Joyce Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

“More than a pruning manual, Hobson's guide encompasses the cultural implications of niwaki, an artistic custom integral to the gardening legacy of Japan.”

•Booklist “Any gardener would be fascinated, not only by the pruning and training techniques, but the background information about Japanese culture which the author weaves throughout the book.”

•Washington Gardener “Of as much interest as the practical cutting points are the bits of history and lore woven into the chapters that stress the spiritual underpinnings of this ancient art.”

•Seattle

Post-Intelligence “Definitely has what it takes to impress serious garden nerds, [but] there's also plenty here for the rest of us. . . . Niwaki is [Hobson's] first book; let's hope it's not his last.”

•Asian Reporter “Detailed drawings of the pruning methods, as well as numerous photos of Japanese examples, make this an eminently practical guide.”

•SciTech Book News “Easily the best book in English on this pristine type of pruning. . . . Anyone who appreciates plants and Japanese culture will find more than they could have imagined in this unique book.”

•West Hawaii

Today “Has wonderful illustrations and very specific directions that should prove useful to anyone who has garden subjects that need pruning.”

•Capital Times “More marriages have gotten in trouble over the ‘correct’ way to prune shrubs than probably any other gardening task. We can't save your relationship, but we [can] suggest Niwaki: Pruning, Training, and Shaping Trees in the Japanese Way.”

•Cleveland Plain Dealer

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.

Good book but too pricey. Can compile the whole book to 3 pages

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.

Very helpful and complete book in the subject. Nice Pictures for inspiration. Good step by step guides. If you want better books on the subject you might need to learn Japanese.

Just what I needed: illustrations and details about which pruning method would be best for which type of tree.

Being new to niwaki, Hobson gives a clear explanation of the principles. Love it!

A truly great landscaping book for anyone with an eye toward Japanese sensibilities.

A thoughtful perspective on aesthetic pruning.

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