



[www.bonsaisouthwest.co.uk](http://www.bonsaisouthwest.co.uk)

[Email-bonsaisouthwest@hotmail.com](mailto:Email-bonsaisouthwest@hotmail.com)

 07399 124 175

## CHAENOMELES CARE GUIDE

Chaenomeles is a genus of 3 species of deciduous, spiny shrubs from mountain woodland in Japan and China. They are favoured for their early flowers which appear from early January onwards on bare branches and can continue after the appearance of leaves. Apple-like edible fruits appear in Autumn though these are normally removed to conserve energy for growth. Quinces grown in pots tend to have very slender trunks and need to be fattened up in the ground for several years to make good bonsai.

**Styles** Very commonly seen in multiple trunk /clump/ sinuous forms though suitable for most forms other than formal upright and broom in small to medium sizes.

### **Position, Light Levels & Temperature:**

Outdoors in Full sun. Protect from scorching hot sun during summer.

Protect in frosts below 5°C though without exposure to cold Quinces flower poorly, if at all.

### **Watering:**

Don't allow to dry out and don't allow to sit in water for more than 30 minutes.

### **Repotting:**

Every year or two years in basic soil mix or neat Akadama preferably in Autumn though Spring repotting is possible with care before leaf-buds extend. (Basic soil mix. 3 parts Akadama : 1 part Pumice or Leca)

### **Fertilizing:**

A general balanced fertiliser will be fine throughout the year. Feed every two weeks with a liquid fertiliser or use organic pellets following instruction on the packet.

Feed from the end of the flowering period until leaves fall. Feeding after leaf break may interfere with flowering

### **Pruning / Training:**

To develop the trunks allow to grow freely without pruning until desired thickness is achieved. Quince take many years to develop large trunks which is why most are grown in a clump or forest style which can utilise multiple thinner trunks. For flowers allow new growth to extend unpruned through the growing season then cut back to the first or second node of new growth in Autumn. Basal growth 'suckers' should be removed unless required to add to the design. Remove faded flowers to ensure energy is not lost on fruit production (unless required).

**Propagation** Sow seed outside in Autumn, semi-ripe cuttings in mid-summer, layers taken in Autumn.

### **Pests and Diseases:**

Canker, scale insects and aphids. Spray proactively for pest and fungus problems. Prevention is better than cure. Use diluted lime sulphur as a winter wash in December and January.

*Occasionally, quince leaves can suddenly turn yellow all over the plant and it will shed all of its leaves in mid season for no apparent reason. This is normal behaviour and nothing to panic about. The leaves will grow back within a couple of weeks.*

### **DISCLAIMER:**

The content provided in this article is not warranted or guaranteed by Bonsai Southwest. The content provided is intended for educational purposes in order to introduce to the reader key horticultural considerations. We are not liable for any negative consequences that may result from implementing any information covered in our articles or tutorials.

If you have any worries or questions please don't hesitate to contact me or seek more local professional help and advice.