

Hayabusa, a  
Cork Bark Japanese Black Pine

By Fred Truck

# Hayabusa

- On 2-22-07, my Hayabusa cork bark Japanese Black pine arrived from Evergreen Gardens.
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- As described in Brent's catalog:
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- **7430 *Pinus thunbergii* 'Hayabusa'** A dwarf cork barked cultivar (Nishiki Kuromatsu) with very dense foliage. See the description of **7423 'Brocade'** above.
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- **7423 *Pinus thunbergii* 'Brocade'** A dwarf cork barked cultivar (Nishiki Kuromatsu) with very dense foliage. It buds back incredibly, very similar to '**Yatsubusa**' in this respect. Fantastic corky ridges begin forming very early and are quite pronounced even in a five year old graft. This will make one of the finest small Nishiki black pines. The needles will also reduce nicely, easily attaining about two inches or less in length. Very low grafts are a must for such a small pine, and ours are right on top of existing roots. This cultivar is very similar to, and may be the same as, '**Hayabusa**'. At present we are keeping the two separate and offering both. Pictured is '01 graft in a one gallon container.
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- I put the little tree in the screened grow pot I have.



- On the gallon pot the tree came in, it was labeled an 04 Hayabusa. That would make it roughly a 3 year-old graft.
- 4-14-08 I repotted the tree today, taking it out of the Vance Wood Grow Box and putting it in a mesh colander. Drainage is fantastic. I used akadama and Hollow Creek bonsai soil.
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- At the same time, I rewired the branches, and removed the smallest lowest branch.
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- 11-16-08 I measured the trunk this afternoon. The wings are starting to appear, and across the low wing area, the trunk is 1.25" wide. Although I didn't measure the trunk when I got it, I think it was about .5".







- 5-11-10 I was wondering when I repotted this tree last, and remembered having a discussion via email with Brian Van Fleet about it. I repotted my Hayabusa on March 30, 2009.
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- The Hayabusa is looking very good. The trunk has thickened quite a bit, and the upper part is now getting corky.
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- I just measured the trunk across the wings. It is now almost 1.75" across. It's growing like a weed.

- 7-15-11 I slip potted this tree into a pot by Dave Lowman. The tree looks good in this pot, but it sits very high.
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- 8-15-11 The hayabusa won 5<sup>th</sup> place in conifers at the State Fair.
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- 3-26-12 I became increasingly dissatisfied with the way the tree was sitting in the pot. Erosion made it appear to be even higher than it was, like it was sitting on top of a volcano. I finally decided to slip pot the tree into the only antique Chinese container I have. It is glazed brown, with pictures. It's about 10 inches square and 8 inches deep. This allowed me to bury the tree much deeper than before. Only the top portion of the roots show. Hopefully it will respond well to this treatment.
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- 3-12-13 The tree has responded well to its new pot environment. Today, I buried the base up to the wings. Last week some time, I thinned the needles. Plan is to trim ALL new growth this year to get smaller needles.







- 3-25-13 Cutting off all new growth was very successful on the hayabusa. All the needles are now 1.5" to 2" long.
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- I finally got tired of looking at the bonsai dirt stacked up against the trunk to hide the graft. I decided to get some kind of moss to hide it. I found some fresh shag moss in sheets, 1" to 3" in depth, just perfect for my tree. It looks good. I hope it works and takes to the soil.
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- I bought way too much of it, though. I have enough for about 35 years.

- There is a difference of opinion on repotting conifers in the fall. Brent Walston has an excellent article on it. Graham Potter also says you can repot in the fall, if you take precautions and protect the tree's roots from freezing temperatures.
- With that in mind, I decided to repot.
- I decided to use this pot:



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***maru-- 丸 round***

***kiritatsu-- 切立 perpendicular***

***ashi-zuke-- 足付 legs attached***



- The Hayabusa is a full cascade.
- I was still irritated by the portion of the graft that still showed. I got some clumps of bark and using marine grade epoxy putty, altered the base. Now the tree looks like this:



- I am still considering altering the base of the tree more.
- For the time being, I'll wait and see how the tree develops. It has already changed from little more than a stick to a bonsai that tells its own story. I look forward to the next chapter.

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