

RAFFIA

is a bio-degradable vegetable fibre which is obtained from the leaves of the Madagascan Palm Tree.

Its use in bonsai techniques is to protect the bark of trunks and branches from cracking, fissuring or lifting from the wood when the trunk or branch is in need of severe bending. The raffia should be soaked well before being wound as tightly as possible onto the member, at least ten minutes in warm water, half an hour in cold. As it dries it shrinks slightly becoming even tighter.

Wire may then be applied over the raffia in the usual way and is not as likely to cut into the bark like this.