

What details can you give me about the 1979 Beijing exhibition that ran Sep 11-Oct 24?

Copilot said:

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Here's a solid, source-backed overview of the **1979 Beijing National Bonsai Exhibition** (often treated as the first major modern Chinese exhibition after the Cultural Revolution):

1979 Beijing National Bonsai Exhibition

Basic facts

- **Dates:** September 11 – October 24, 1979
- **Location:** Beihai Park (北海公园), Beijing
- **Organizer:** State-level bodies under the national urban construction / landscaping administration
- **Significance:** First large-scale national bonsai exhibition after 1949 (and especially after the Cultural Revolution)

✅ The event is explicitly recorded as:

“1979年9月11日至10月24日...在北京北海公园主办首次盛大的全国盆景艺术展览”baidu

Scale and participation

This was not a local show—it was **national in scope**:

- **Participating regions:**
 - 13 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities
- **Participating units:**
 - 54 organizations
- **Exhibition layout:**
 - Divided into **10 regional or stylistic halls**, including:
 - Guangzhou (Lingnan style)
 - Suzhou/North & South Jiangsu

- Fujian
- Zhejiang
- Sichuan
- Beijing, Shanghai, etc.baidu

👉 This is important: it was one of the first times that **regional styles were formally presented side by side** at a national level.

Number and types of exhibits

- **Total exhibits:** over **1,100 bonsai**
- **Exhibition space:** about **600 square meters**
- **Range of material:**
 - Tree bonsai (树木盆景)
 - Landscape bonsai (山水盆景)
 - Flowering/fruiting types
 - Regional styles (Lingnan, Su, Yangzhou, etc.)

✅ Recorded as:

“展出各种类型的 1100 多盆盆景...在 600 平方米展场中”baidu

Attendance and reception

- **Visitors:** more than **100,000 people**
- This is extremely large for the time, especially given the cultural context of 1979.

✅ Source wording:

“参观人数达 10 万余人次”baidu

👉 This indicates:

- massive public interest

- a revival of traditional arts in the early Reform era
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Historical context

This exhibition sits at a critical turning point:

Before 1979

- Bonsai (盆景) had:
 - Declined during the Cultural Revolution
 - Been treated as “feudal/artistic excess” in some contexts

After 1978 (Reform era begins)

- Cultural policy shifts → revival of traditional arts
- Local exhibitions (like those in Guangzhou in 1978) reappeared
- But they were still **fragmented and local**

👉 The 1979 Beijing exhibition:

- **Unified the field nationally**
 - Marked the transition from **informal/local revival** → **organized national movement**
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Why it is considered a milestone

Chinese sources explicitly describe it as:

“成为中国盆景发展史的重要里程碑”

(“It became an important milestone in the history of Chinese bonsai development”)baidu

Key reasons:

1. First truly national exhibition after decades

- Earlier shows existed (e.g., Guangzhou 1960, 1978), but:

- They were regional
- They lacked national coordination

2. Re-establishes regional schools

- Lingnan (Guangzhou), Suzhou, Sichuan, etc. all displayed together
- Helped define “schools” (流派) in the modern sense

3. Launch point for future institutions

- Precedes:
 - 1981: China Flower & Bonsai Association
 - 1985+: national competitive exhibitions

Bottom line

The **1979 Beijing exhibition** was:

- The **first large-scale national bonsai exhibition in modern China**
- Hosted in **Beihai Park**
- Featuring:
 - 13 regions
 - 54 organizations
 - 1,100+ bonsai
- Attracting:
 - 100,000+ visitors
- Running for:
 - **6+ weeks (Sept 11 – Oct 24, 1979)**

👉 And historically, it marks the **true beginning of the modern Chinese bonsai movement.**

Result from a few minutes of questioning of MS CoPilot Chat, 05/19/26 pm.