

BUDDING AND GRAFTING TIME LINES

Grafting

- May 1 It is time to do grafting procedures using scion wood that was collected last fall. This includes the spring version of the Jones (Dry) bud grafting method where one bud is used for each graft instead of a whole scion. The bud will begin to grow immediately so don't restrict it's growth by inappropriate wrapping.
- May 15 Grafting will still be successful if the scion wood has been kept cold and dormant.
- June 1 It is getting too late for grafting since the new growth may not have time to harden for the winter.
- June 15 Support any vigorous new shoots that are growing from the grafts. They are prone to being broken of by the wind or by mechanical contact. Rub (i.e. remove new growth from below) the grafts.
- July 1 Rub below the grafts again and support any late vigorous shoots.
- August 1 Some rubbing below the grafts may be necessary.
- October 1 Scion wood for grafting next spring is mature enough to be collected for storage. You will need to remove the leaves. Be careful not to tear the bark.
- November 1 This is a good date to collect scion wood for use next spring since most of the leaves will have fallen and severe cold and deep snow have not yet arrived. Store the scion wood in barely moist peat moss (appears to be dry) in double poly bags at -3° to $+5^{\circ}$ C. Flip the packages over to distribute the condensation several times each month.

Budding (short for August Bud Grafting)

- April 25 Remove the bud ties and cut off most of the rootstock top growth leaving about 20 cms of rootstock above the buds that were inserted last August.
- May 1 Plant the rootstock that will be budded this summer. Plants with a caliper measurement between 5-10 mm are ideal since they will grow to be 10-15 mm for August budding.
- May 7 Cut off the remainder of the rootstock to within 1 mm of the top of the bud shield above the buds that were inserted last August. (The cut will be about 1.5 cms above the actual bud)
- May 15 Rub (i.e. identify the growth from the inserted bud and remove all the other growth) the plants that were budded last August. Be careful not to grab a leave on the bud shoot (i.e. growth from the bud) and break it accidentally.
- June 1 Rub budded plants again.
- June 15 Rub again and stake any vigorous bud shoots. Irrigate the rootstock that will be budded in August.
- July 1 Rub again and stake the remaining bud shoots. Irrigate the rootstock that will be budded in August.
- July 15 For some species (e.g. Saskatoon berry) budwood for use in August budding is mature. Other species may have mature buds on the bottom 1/3 of the budwood (i.e. current season's growth taken from stock plants).
- August 1 Now is the best time to cut budwood and begin budding since most of the buds will be mature. Irrigate the rootstock before budding. After budding, protect the bud and bud tie from birds using a short section of trunk wrap. Budding is best done between August 1 and August 25. Buds that are inserted during this time will remain dormant until next spring when the growth above them is removed (see April 25).
- August 15 Within two weeks of being budded, the petioles should be yellow and abscised. Tight, dehydrated petioles indicate that the bud has failed to 'take' (i.e. heal onto the stock).
- August 20 From now until the end of the month, rootstock for budding next August may be planted. Irrigate it well.
- September 1 Budding under irrigated conditions can still be quite successful if done within 5 cms of the soil line so that the buds can be protected from heavy frost (below -2° C) until the petiole abscises.
- October 15 Remove the stakes from the bud shoots that grew this last summer. Be sure to mark the plants where the buds had not taken. Until now these plants have been obvious in that they have not been staked. They can be grafted in spring or budded again next August.

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Thank you to Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, ADF for funding to support this work.