

# Tips and Techniques for More Efficient Grafting



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# Collection of Graftwood

- Collect Jan.-Feb.
- Store at 34-40 °F.
- Keep damp, not wet.
- Cedar chips prevent mold growth.
- Can write name on sticks with sharpie.



# Size of Graftwood

- Bigger is better.
- Water sprouts make the best graftwood.

Excellent



Good



Poor



1. Line up scion with stock, scion should be slightly bigger than stock.



Double cut pruners make it easier to cut through thick graftwood.



2. Mark a cross on top of the stock and cut four lines down sides through the bark.

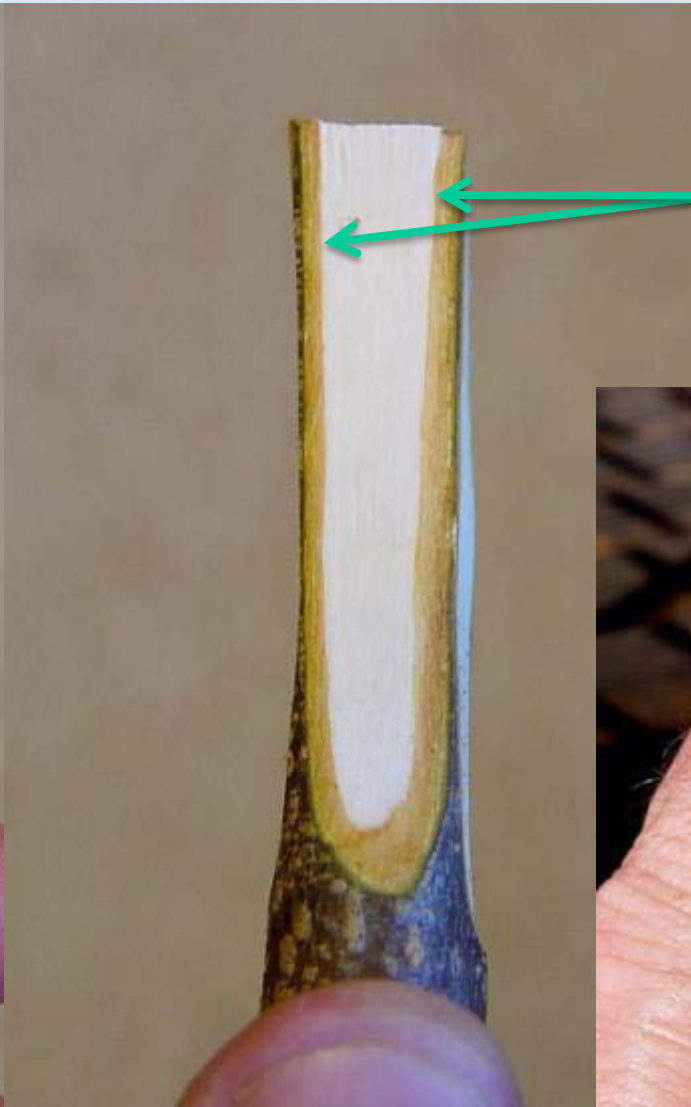


3. Peel four slices of bark down 2-3 inches. Pull them back up and hold them up with the rubber band to prevent drying.



4. Shave four sides so that you leave a small piece of bark along the edge. Make sure you cut deep enough!

**Not deep enough.**

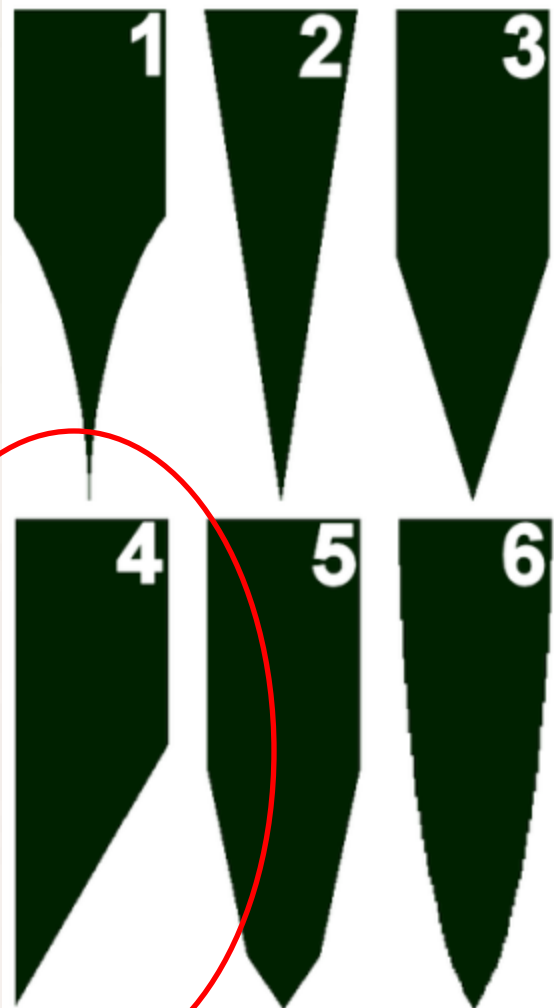


Cambium that  
forms the  
callus.





Grafting knives should have a single bevel to make flat cuts.



5. Quickly place scion inside flaps and hold in place with rubber band.



6. Wrap with grafting tape, pressure stimulates callus formation.



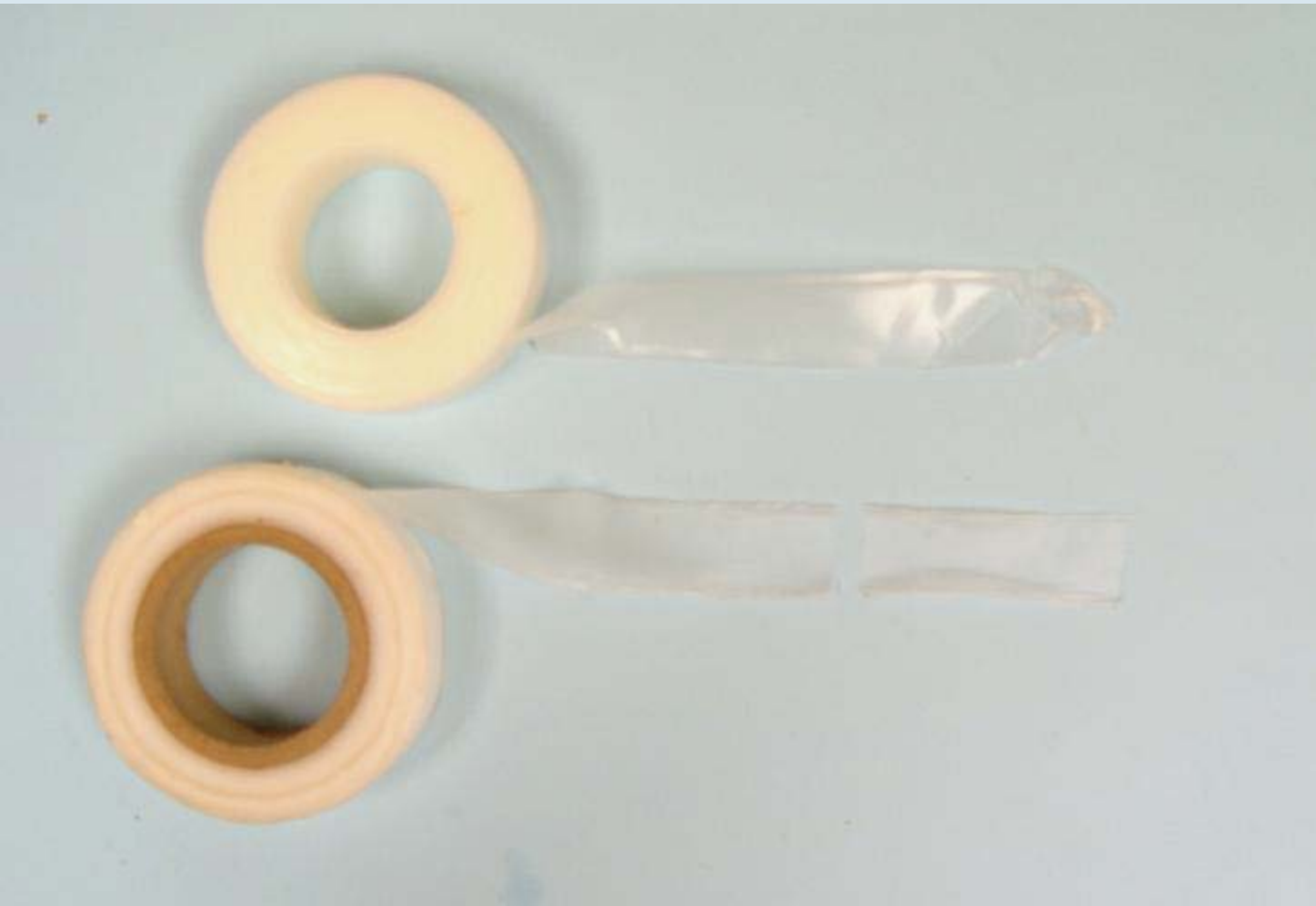
Grafting tape works better than masking tape, electrical tape, or flagging tape because it stretches without breaking, providing the proper amount of pressure. White is harder to find but will reflect sunlight, prevent heat buildup, and make grafts more visible.



7. Wrap scion with buddy tape to prevent moisture loss.



Buddy tape is more expensive than parafilm, but worth it. It is perforated for easier use and softer and more flexible.



8. Don't forget to label your graft for the future.

Sharpie – 3-4 months

Garden Marker – 2 years

Aluminum Tag – Until lost



Callus formation visible in 5-10 days.





List of supplies  
available on  
print out in back.

