

## **BENCH GRAFTING FRUIT TREES TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND PROCESS**

**Grafting Knives** ... should have a straight blade with a flat cutting edge, not curved. Bring one to the class if you can but there will be some for you to use. A fixed blade, rather than a folding one, with a heavier handle & blade might be easier to work for some people, the important thing is that it has a straight cutting edge!



**Grafting Bands (rubbers)**...used for binding the graft union, will be supplied for the class (provided by instructor)



**Graft Union Sealer**...parafilm, not grafting wax or available for you to use at class. (provided by instructor)

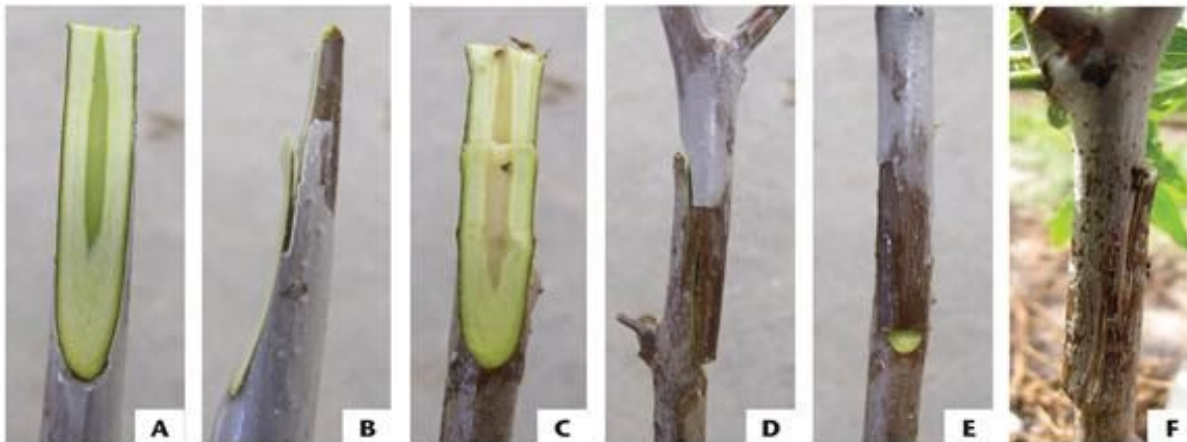


prune sealer, will be



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### **Whip & Tongue Grafting Process Images:**

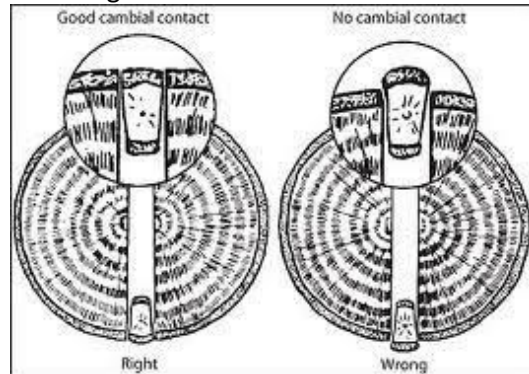


**A)** Make long oval cut on root stock and scion (as above). An oval exposes more of the Cambium (thin green circle of cell beneath the bark), which is the living tissue of the tree!

**B)** Slice down the center of the “oval”, making a tongue on both the rootstock and the scions. Hold thumbs together as illustrated to prevent “slipping” with knife!)



- C) Fit whip & tongue together making sure to make as much contact as possible between the scion and root stock cambium...the more they touch the better the graft union will be!



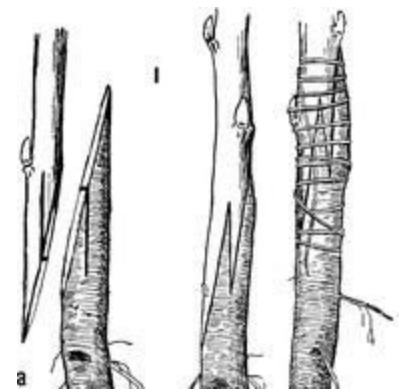
D) *continued...*

- Wrap the graft union with a grafting band to secure and stabilize it,
- then wrap the graft union with parafilm.
- Cut the tip of the scion to remove any terminal bud leaving a maximum of 6 buds. Wrap the exposed tip of the scion with parafilm.



(~45

allow the rootstock and scion cambium to begin healing together.



E) **Healing the graft union...** put the freshly grafted tree in cool storage degree F) for ~ month to

After the healing period, THEN plant it in a pot, OR in its intended location, OR In a nursery bed for 1 season, transplant to final location next spring.

Once planted, keep the young tree well-watered and protected from wind, dogs, voles, deer, etc. Allow bud growth ONLY above the graft union

If you are lucky, the healed graft union will look like this

