

Collect "scions" from trees during winter pruning so the trees are dormant. In MN that usually means February since I like to wait until after the "cold snap" that usually comes in January to prevent winter injury to the fresh cuts on the tree.

For best success, collect 1 year old twigs with a minimum of 6 buds. To identify "1 year old wood" start at the tip, and move backwards along the twig, look for the "bud scars" which indicated where twig growth starts & stops each year. The longer the better so you have room to make mistakes when making your grafting cuts.

Store scions in the fridge in a plastic bag, wrap the cut ends with moist paper towels or moss to prevent drying. If you collect more than one variety be sure to LABEL them!

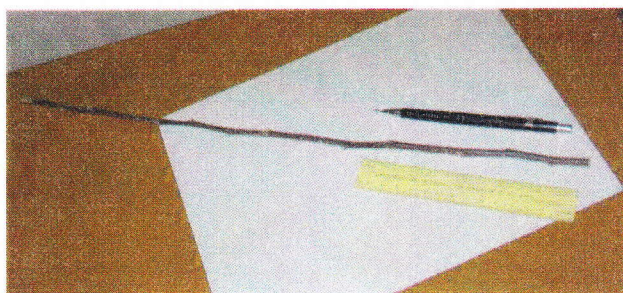
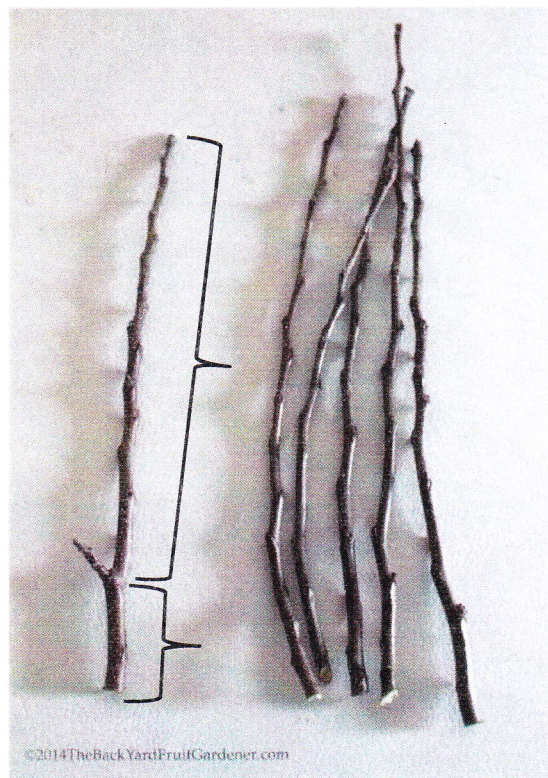


A cluster of lines make up the "bud scars" (white circle), indicating where growth of the twig started. You can often see several years of growth on a twig, separated by these bud scars. This may be along a single twig or form a junction.



The 4 scions in hand and the cluster of 5 scions on the far right show 1 year old twigs. They illustrate ideal lengths and diameter for scions.

The solitary scion in the image to the right shows 1 year growth with 12 buds, then a junction below which is 2 year old wood...get it?



Watersprouts (long vertical twigs that grow in one season) need to be pruned off during the winter pruning season to keep your tree from getting overgrown. They work well for scions too!