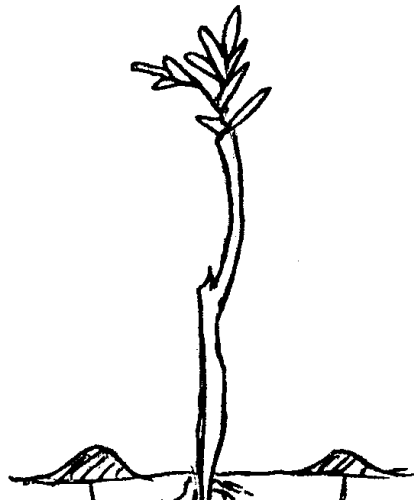



Three weeks after budding the binding should be removed. If the bud is brown it has died. If it is green it is alive and will sprout soon. If it is alive the stem of the rootstock should be cut off about 6" above the bud. When the sprout is 2-3" long cut the stem back to just above the bud .



Any shoots from below the bud should be rubbed off and the budded shoot allowed to grow. The side shoots of the new shoot should also be rubbed off until the tree is about hip level. Then the apical bud can be cut out so that the tree branches

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BUDDING CITRUS TREES

The sweet species of citrus do not have strong roots, so in budding we use buds from a tree that we like and use them to change a tree with strong roots into one like the one we got the bud from.

Budding is practised for the following reasons:

1. The tree starts to fruit earlier.
2. The fruit will be exactly the same as that of the tree the bud was taken from.
3. The root system is strong.
4. Trees grown from seed sometimes have juvenile properties such as spines on the branches, and upright growth
5. The good fruit does not need to have seeds.

For all sorts of citrus seeds of sour orange or rough lemon are used, and then the desired type of tree is budded onto this rootstock. The sour orange seedlings have strong roots and form a good base for budding other types onto.

The rootstock is ready for budding when it is about the thickness of a pencil at one foot above the ground.

Budding can be done in various ways but the commonest method is the 'T' method. It is called this because the cuts in the bark of the rootstock look like a Capital T.

Budwood must come from a mature tree that is selected by the person budding. A good tree for budwood is one that is:

1. Healthy.
2. Fast Growing.
3. Bearing fruits that taste good and are juicy.
4. Free from fungus or virus diseases.
5. With dormant buds - buds that have not yet sprouted.
6. With branches the same thickness as the rootstock.

HOW TO BUD.

1. Always make sure your hands and knife are **clean** before budding. Always use a **sharp** knife. If the knife is not sharp and clean the bud will probably die.

2. At a height of about one foot above the ground, make a cut through the bark of the rootstock in the shape of an upside down 'T'. If the cut is too low it will easily get infected by fungus from the soil. Make sure the cut goes right through the bark but does not damage the wood of the stem.



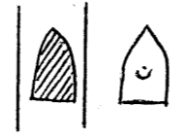
3. Using the point of the knife, fold back the flaps of bark produced by the 'T' cut. Be careful not to tear the bark.



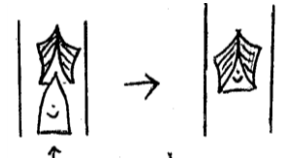
4. Cut a shield shaped piece of bark from round a dormant bud of the budwood. Make sure the cut goes right through the bark. Make sure the pointed end of it is at the top. Remember the bud is always **above** the leaf scar



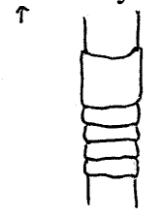
5. Using the point of the knife remove the piece of bark with the bud on. Be careful not to touch the back of the bud with your fingers. Hold the bud between the fingertips.



6. Carefully push the bud into the 'T' cut on the rootstock until the flat bottom of the shield of the bud is against the flat cut on the bottom of the 'T'.



7. Using a strip of plastic from a plastic bag or a strip of banana fibre bind the whole area of the bud. If you start binding from the bottom up, the binding overlaps in such a way that rain cannot easily enter the bud. The bud needs to be kept from getting too wet or it will rot.



8. Pick out the apical bud to stop apical dominance so that the new bud is encouraged to swell and sprout .