

Dale Jackson

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First I'm not a professional.

Don't touch cut wood to be grafted, germs are even on clean hands. Select graft from last year's growth. Make sure it is the kind of apple you want and mark with a tag, what kind. No more than 3 nodes or start of leaves on a graft. [about 2 or 3 inch in length] Bud should be less than ¼ inches in length. Match up the size of graft to the tree to be grafted.

Cut about a 1 inch long tapered cut on both tree and new graft the bark should match up and touch all the way around. Split the cut about ¼ inch on both tree and graft. This will hold them together even if not wrapped. I use plumbers tape and wrap about ½ inch above and below graft. I believe this is called whip and tongue graft. This type of graft is good on small new trees that are two – three feet high. Trees that are bigger and you want to change what is growing on them cropping is how it is done. About, 1/3 or in three years you can change the whole tree. Start on the south or sunny side of the tree. Cut most of the branch off with a big saw. Works good with two inches in diameter or so. With a fine tooth saw, make a cut where you want the graft to start. With a hammer and wood chisel cut bark on opposite sides straight down each side about 1 inch. Then on the end split open the branch, I found 2 or 4 grafts are good. You only want 2 to grow at most. It is last year's growth from a tree you want. No more than 3 nodes. Cut end in pie shape about 1 inch long leaving bark on the outside tapered down to nothing. Put in on branch crack on both sided making sure bark to bark. Pull out chisel and they should stay. Repeat 90 degrees if you want four. Mold clay around end of graft in a ball. Then wrap with plastic and leave for a year. Take plastic off and put bees wax on any exposed dry wood.

My Trees

| Type | When ready |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Yellow Transparent | Aug 15 |
| Lodi | Aug 15 |
| Dale's Apple Sauce | Aug 15 |
| Witnee Crap Apple | Sept 1 |
| White Apple very Juicy | Sept 1 |
| Snowy Eating Apple | Sept 1 |
| Large Cooking Apple | Sept 15 |
| And eating | |
| Alexanders large cooking Apple | Oct 15 |

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Winter pruning stimulates new growth. This is in the form of new shoots. Summer pruning control the plant. Cutting when in leaf, the missing leaves will not help with new growth.

The effect of pruning is to produce bigger fruit without over production. The best way to describe a good pruned tree is umbrella shaped and so a bird can fly through it just about anywhere.

Water sprout from the ground or suckers should be cut anytime

Looking up from under the tree, where two branches cross close together one or the other should be trimmed. At this spot one or both will start to rote and die.

On trimming on main tree large branches should be cut about one foot away from main so as if to tear will not hurt tree. Then recut as close to tree as possible and use sealer.

If there is a choice of two branches to be removed cut the one that is less than 45° between the tree and branch. The one over 45° will be stronger. Also remember where the limb grows it will never get any higher. [grass cutting and deer]

No two trees are the same. Don't be afraid to prune. Cut about 1/3 of the tree per year max. The tree will grow back.

To make a strong tree and to let sun light in for leaves and fruit are the two main rules.

Good Luck

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