

Propagating Peaches by “T”-Budding



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service • Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

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Glenn Taylor

Extension Horticulturist, Pecans and Tree Fruits

The “T” or shield-bud method of propagation may be used on many kinds of plants; apples, pears, peaches, and a large number of ornamentals. The “T” bud is considered the easiest method of plant propagation.

Peaches are usually propagated during the seedling stage of growth when they are at least as large in diameter as a pencil. If this size is attained in June, they may be budded and forced into growth in a short time. When seedling development is delayed, budding is usually performed in August and early September and the buds are not forced into growth until the next spring.

Bud wood is secured from desirable varieties at the time the budding is done. Select strong, vigorous,

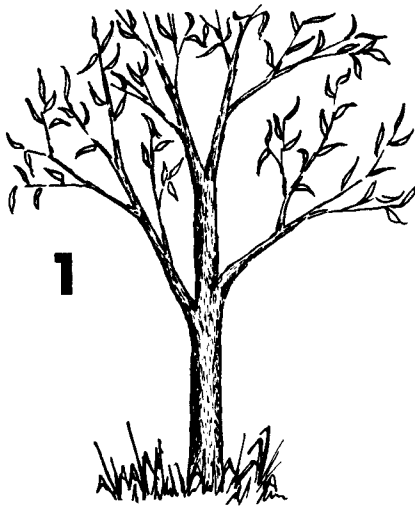
new-shoot growths. Bud wood is big enough to use when a reddish color develops on the twig and the buds show brown-colored spots.

Immediately remove the leaves from the bud stick. Use a knife or hand shears to clip off the leaves, leaving a short stub of the petiole of the leaf (on the stock) $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long.

This stub can serve to protect the bud adjacent to it and also serve as a handle to hold the bud while it is being cut from the stick and being inserted into the seedling.

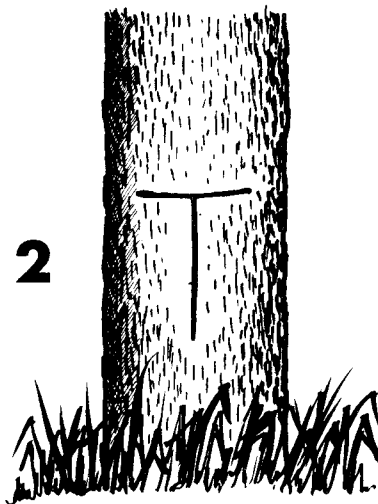
The immature wood at the terminal end of the shoot should be removed. Ordinarily, bud sticks would be from around 10 to 15 inches in length. Keep the bud sticks wrapped in moist burlap sacks or suitable material to prevent drying out.

Material prepared by E.L. Whitehead, former Extension Horticulturist.



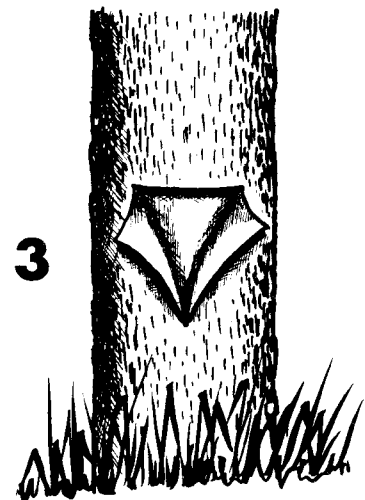
1. PREPARING STOCK

A young seedling as large in diameter as a pencil or larger is preferable. In preparing the stock for budding, remove all the growth on the lower 6 to 10 inches of the tree.



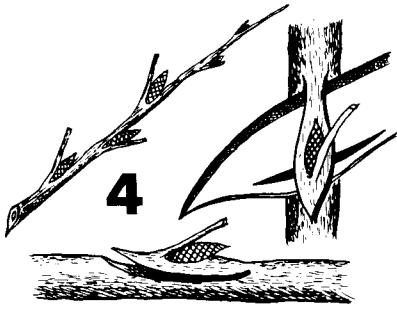
2. MAKING FIRST CUT

The first cut is made lengthwise of the stem near the ground line, preferably on the north side of the stock. Next, make the cross cut by a rolling movement of the knife, which lifts the corners of the bark where the two cuts cross each other.



3. OPEN THE MATRIX

The same area with the matrix opened out to receive the bud.

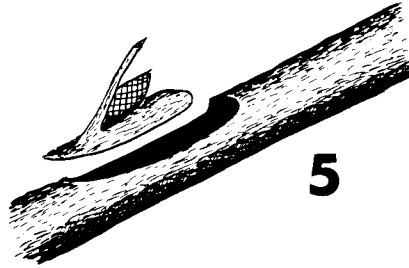


4. CUTTING THE BUD

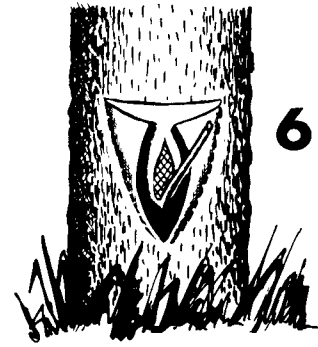
Cut the bud from the stick by making the cut upwards just underneath the bud. This cut should be from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch in length, extending below and above the bud.

5. REMOVE THE BUD

Remove the bud from the bud stick



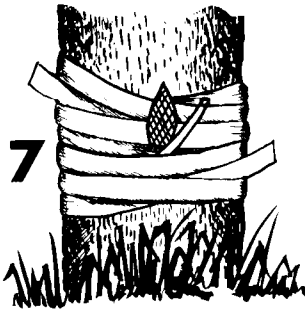
by making a cut across the top through the bark and peel the bark and bud from the stick, leaving the wood attached to the stock. The bud may be held on the blade of the knife with the thumb on the leaf stub while it is being inserted in the stock. If the bark does not slip, leave the wood



attached to the bark.

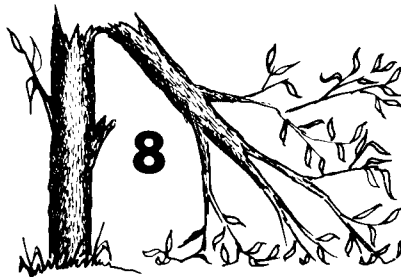
6. INSERT UNDER BARK

Insert the bud in the matrix under the bark and push it down until it is firmly in place. If a part of the tissue extends above the top of the "T" cut, it should be removed.



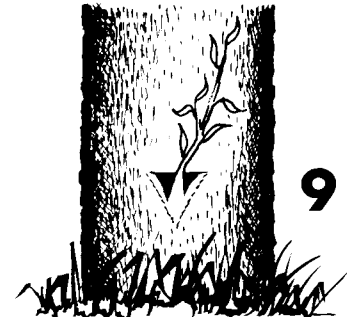
7. WRAPPING THE BUD

Secure the bud to the stock by wrapping with $\frac{1}{8}$ inch rubber budding strips, making at least two wraps below the bud and two above. The band maintains constant pressure, but expands with the growth of the tree.



8. FORCING BUDS

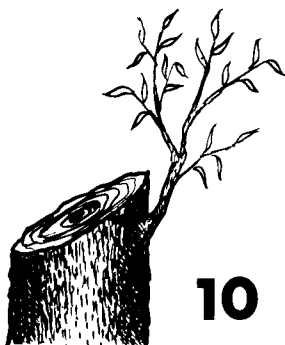
When June budding, to force the bud, break the top over about one-half the distance from the ground to the top of the seedling, leaving it attached to shade the row of seedling trees. When "T" budding is performed during late August or early September, the



buds should callus well during the remainder of the growing season and be forced into growth the following spring.

9. NEW GROWTH STARTS

Shows the new growth from the inserted bud.

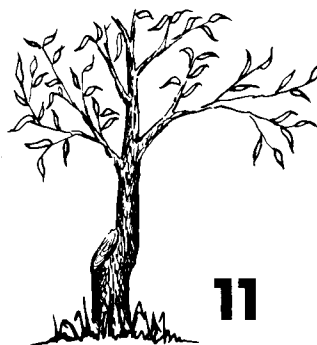


10. REMOVE THE TOP

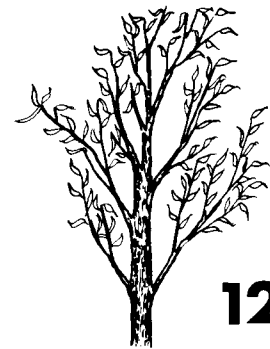
When the forced bud starts to grow, remove the top of the seedling just above the new shoot.

11. REMOVE NEW GROWTH

Keep the new growth removed from



the base of the seedling below the bud. Some of the shoots on the new top growth may be removed near the base to force more length of growth into the new tree. In June budding, the old top should be removed as soon as the bud starts to grow. Keep the surplus



growth removed in order to produce a larger tree during the growing season.

12. THE TREE IS READY

The converted tree, the new variety, after a season's growth. The tree is ready for transplanting to its permanent location.