



Almond Budding

What is Budding?

Budding places a bud (taken from the plant known as the **scion**) on to the growing stem of another plant (known as the **rootstock**). A small branch with several buds suitable for budding from the mother stock is known as a **bud stick**.

Why Bud?

Budded plants are close to identical to the parent plant and are 'true-to-type' of the original plant. Such plants give the same quality fruit, the same tolerances to diseases and pests and the same growing pattern.

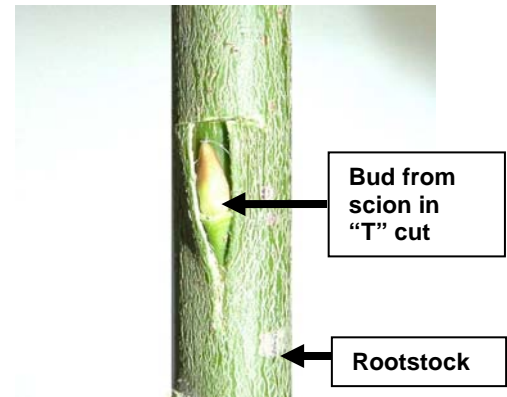
How do you Bud?

Successful budding requires

1. A sharp knife and skilled technician.
2. compatible rootstock and scion,
3. fully-formed buds,
4. actively growing rootstock such that the bark is "slipping" (i.e., the bark separates easily from the stem). (In the US, most budding is done in May and June.)
5. daily cleaning of knives (e.g., with bleach) and hand washing between blocks, and
6. rootstock stem and growth is trimmed immediately above the bud after it is certain that the bud is growing.

T-budding is the most common method used in grafting.

1. Make a T-shape on the rootstock plant and flex the knife from side to side in the lower slit to loosen the bark from the stem. (An inverted T-bud is also an option.)
2. Select actively growing shoots of the scion wood as the bud stick. Discard buds at the tip or at older parts of the shoot. Buds may tiny and almost unnoticeable.
3. Cut the bud (including the petiole) from the bud stick using an upward slicing motion.
4. Remove lateral growth on the rootstock below where the bud will be placed
5. Immediately slide the bud into the T cut on the rootstock before the bud can dry out.
6. Bind the bud to the rootstock by a winding of the rubber band or grafting tape. Leave the binding until the grafted bud area has healed (often about 2-3 weeks). Remove the binding after the union has healed if the binding has not degraded under sunlight.



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