



## INFORMATION SHEET - GRAFTING

The grafting method described here is “whip and tongue” grafting as demonstrated by Hilary Wilson at the NCOG grafting workshop. You will need secateurs, a Stanley-type knife, a cutting board, gloves for protection, polythene tape and wax.

### THE SCION WOOD

Cut a piece of scion wood to about 4-6” (about 4 buds). Check that it is still “green”. Dab the top with wax to prevent drying out. Make a slanting cut at the bottom end with a Stanley knife, starting below a bud as shown by the dotted line in the picture below:



### THE ROOTSTOCK

Cut the top off the rootstock. It is a good idea to leave about 9” of clear stem so that if the graft doesn’t take another one can be done lower down next year. Make a slanting cut to match that of the scion wood. If the two pieces are the same thickness then the cuts should mirror each other. More usually, the rootstock will be thicker, so the cut will not cut through the stock – the two cuts need to match. See diagrams below:



### JOINING THE PIECES

Half-way along each cut, make a reverse cut to form a short tongue. This may be best done flat on the cutting board, using a wiggling motion with the wood, holding the knife still. Fit the two pieces together (bend the scion wood slightly to expose the tongue and make sure it is inserted behind the tongue of the stock). The green wood under the bark of each piece should be in close contact and the graft should stay in place. See picture below:



### FINISHING THE GRAFT

Bind the graft with polythene tape (1" wide strips cut from freezer bags will suffice). Start at the bottom and be sure to go over any exposed top of the stock. Dab grafting wax on the top and bottom of the tape to seal. If you do not have grafting wax then any wax with a very low melting point will suffice, or possibly Vaseline. If you are not potting up straight away then be sure to keep the roots damp and covered until you get it home.

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Based on demonstration given by Hilary Wilson to NCOG workshop 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011