

lots of different connections are needed to foster an urban commons

data about grafts can be complicated; commons aren't always legal...we share data about graftable trees at *fallingfruit.org/grafter*

make an account, and then email us: info@guerrillagrafters.org

Guerrilla Grafters

Instruction Manual

Graft in late winter to early spring while branches are dormant, or as dormancy is just breaking....

Many cities in North America line the streets with ornamental pears, plums and cherries, all in the Rose Family. These trees bloom in the spring.

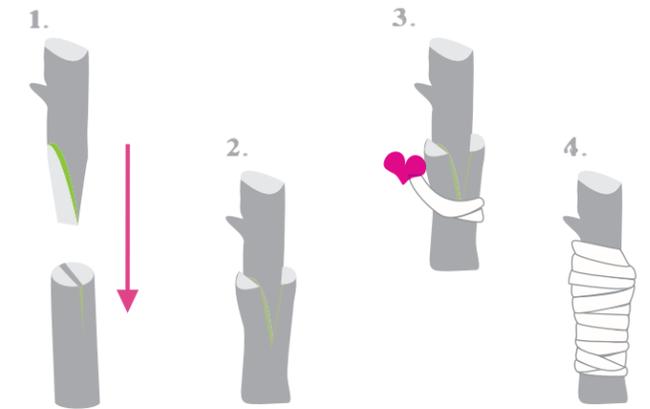


It's easiest to graft pear onto pear, cherry onto cherry and plum onto plum, and stone fruits can be intermixed onto plum fairly easily.

Collect budding fruit tree cuttings ("scions") from local fruit growers' exchanges, or from a friend's fruiting tree in your bioregion....



Label the scions with the cultivar, date, and location of the stock plant. Store bundles in ziploc bags with a sprinkle of water in the refrigerator. The scions can last up to a month.



The **wedge graft** is the grafting style Guerrilla Grafters use for simplicity.

1. Using a sharp knife, split the stock branch down the center, making a V. Shave the scion on two sides into a tapering wedge, blunt the end so that it's even.

2. Insert this wedge into the branch, careful to line up the **cambium** layer. Set the scion to one side if the scion and stock branches don't match completely; this way at least one side of the cambium will make contact.

3. Hold the graft union firmly; start from below the graft, wrap the graft carefully in a spiraling fashion with grafting tape. Pull the tape tautly to be sure the cut surfaces are touching.

4. Wrap the tape beyond the graft onto the scion to cover all cuts, secure with a rubber band.

The **vascular cambium** of the scion must be aligned with that of the rootstock. In woody plants the cambium is a very thin layer of green just below the bark where water and sugar travel.



Use a bit of colored electrical tape, a bread bag tie, or even an RFID tag to code your graft with information. Keep a personal grafting journal.

Watch your graft, and care for the tree. In 2-6 weeks, remove rubber bands. It takes 2-5 years for a graft to bear fruit.



Guerrilla Tips

- Move fast and work in threes. Have one person on the lookout, one person holding tools, while the other makes the graft.

- For thinner branches, use the **whip graft**.

- Have some lines prepared for when people ask what you are doing. If the questioner seems friendly, see if they want to join the **Guerrilla Grafters**.

consider RFID tags, encryption, p2p, trust networks, digital graffiti and find out about hackerspaces and/or local area networks to protect data while the urban commons grows, join guerrilla grafters in your area..