

The Propagation of Honey Locust by Summer Budding

JACK SIEBENTHALER

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We select our seed in the fall when the pods are ripe and beginning to fall. We have no established practice for selection of seeds. We do secure a large number of seed each year and, as was the case this year, many of the seeds are not good. We try to get enough good seed so that we will have an ample supply of our own seedlings. We have found that we get the quickest cleaning by running the seed through a mascerator.

We sow the seed either in the fall or early spring. We have done it at both times and with good success either way. I think fall sowing in our particular location is satisfactory

We dig the seedlings in the fall after one year of growth and store them over-winter outside. We don't attempt to store them in controlled refrigerated storage. We heel-in the seedlings in sand so they are readily available for spring planting. We grade them before heeling them in so that there will not be added delay when planting time arrives. The seedlings are planted in the early spring and, weather permitting, we like to get them in the ground by mid-April. They are budded about the last week in June or the first week in July. That seems to be a little earlier than some people bud, however that is the time we have found to be optimum for our particular locality.

We de-wood the buds before inserting them and we use rubber strips for tying. We usually manage to get all of the budding done in ten to fourteen days, so there isn't too much of a time lapse. We get a good percentage.

Most of the buds do not begin to grow until the following spring; however a certain percentage of them do. We haven't found that this is detrimental. There have been times when some of those first buds are injured by a severe early freeze, or some similar circumstance. Like the American elm budding practice, we cut off the tops in the early spring, usually in the middle of March.

As the bud begins to grow we stake as soon as possible. The two reasons for early staking are, first, we like to get the stakes into the ground when the ground is soft enough for easy insertion, and, secondly, we like to begin tying the bud to the stake when it is not much over fifteen inches tall.

In the course of the summer's growth of the budded Moraine locust, we will tie them four to six times, depending on the individual shoot. They grow to eight feet or slightly more. The average growth is about seven feet and some side branches develop

We trim these lateral buds as part of the summer maintenance. The time of trimming usually is August or the early part of September. The only thing we do is to trim off side branches which develop within four feet of the ground.

Just as an aside and something which may possibly be of interest to

some of you, we leave the multiple buds. Out of a block of plants, we get fifteen to thirty that are unusual. The natural tendency has been to consider these as freaks and unwanted. However, since we are in the landscape business, we like to have something a little different to offer our customers.

Quarter inch iron rods are preferred for tying. We like them because they last indefinitely. The rust on them doesn't seem to make any difference. Considering the breakage of bamboo poles, especially if the ground is hard, I think we are ahead by using the iron rods. However, we don't have enough iron rods and are forced to use a few bamboo stakes.

We dug the locust rather early this year. We had them all out of the ground before the first of November, but that isn't always the case. Last year, it was a little bit later. However, we experienced two straight seasons of particularly dry weather and the ground was particularly hard. Last year, we didn't have facilities to water at the right time to make digging easier. This year we had the facilities to water and consequently dug earlier. The leaves were still on the trees but they defoliated when we started to handle them.

Again, storage is outside and we heel the trees in sand. They are graded as soon as dug and are tied into bundles containing definite numbers.

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CHAIRMAN FILLMORE: Thank you very much, Jack. There is time for only one question.

MR. BLYTHE (McConnel Nursery, Port Burwell, Ontario): The new growth is very soft in June and July. Were the buds taken from two-year or one-year wood?

MR. SIEBENTHALER: One year. The wood evidently is a little harder in our area than in your locality.

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CHAIRMAN FILLMORE: Fellow-members and guests. I am happy to present, on behalf of Mr. Peter Nicolin, of Frauweiler b. Koln, West Germany, an exhibit of the Nicolieren budding method as developed by him. This method was developed to overcome incompatibility between certain varieties of pears and quince.

Such incompatibility is usually overcome by first budding or grafting, on a quince understock, a variety of pear which is compatible both with the quince and with the desired variety. Upon this doubly compatible pear, one later buds or grafts the desired pear variety. Herr Nicolin has reduced this expensive and time consuming procedure to a single operation by inserting a thin slice of the compatible variety under the varietal bud. This is one of the most ingenious propagating methods which has ever been brought to my attention.

The Nicolin Exhibit consists of the following bud-graft combinations:

1. Amsden plum on Brompton with Mandel Nicolier-interschild
2. Kostliche aus Charneu pear on quince with Pastoren pear Nicolier-interschild
3. Clapps Liebling pear on quince with Pastoren pear Nicolier-interschild
4. Williams Christbirne pear on quince with Neue Poiteau pear Nicolier-interschild
5. Schoner aus Boskoop apple on Malling II with Malling IX Nicolier-interschild

May I express to Mr. Nicolin my deepest personal appreciation for his generosity in sending us this outstanding exhibit. May I also translate the concluding paragraph from his accompanying letter, "I wish this package to reach you in good time, a good outcome of your day and may this exhibit "rise high" as a friendly greeting of one of the German nurserymen. With friendly greetings. Peter Nicolin."

Chairman Fillmore read a translation of the paper of Peter Nicolin which described the budding technique. (Applause)

Nicolieren, a New Method of Grafting*

P. NICOLIN

Frauweiler b. Koln, West Germany

When my good old bearded teacher taught me grafting in the year 1911, I tried my luck with a twenty-year old apple tree.

I was not satisfied, however, with just a single kind, so six different ones were grafted: Teasgoods, Borsdorfer, Cellini, Gravenstein, Sternrenette and Goldparmane.

And they really all adhered!

Who could not imagine the joy and the pride of an eleven year old after such a success!

After this event, I have always kept in touch with trees and nurseries; I have tried many things, and now and then have been rewarded with good results.

The year before last I suddenly had a strange thought as I deliberated about the incompatibility of many pears with their quince understocks and what to do about it.

Of course, one can remedy this by introducing a more compatible intermediate. This is an old trick.

But one loses a whole year of culture by so doing. How would it be if one could reduce the intermediate to a single slice and, together with the incompatible piece, place them into the budding opening? I grafted twenty quinces with Clapps "darling" (Liebling) and Williams Christ-

*English translation of original article from *Deutsche Baumschue* Vol 5, No 7 for July, 1953. By permission Herr Gerd Krussman, Editor.