

Scionwood Collection Instructions

Apple trees are replicated by grafting (spicing) scions -scionwood- (short pieces of one-year-old twigs) onto rootstock (existing trees). Seeds will never come "true-to-type." The one year old twigs are called "scions" or "scionwood". They are located at the terminal end of every branch. On healthy vigorous trees, these one year shoots can be 3-5 feet long. On many older trees, the one year shoots can be an inch long or less. Pruning trees regularly stimulates shoot growth the following year.

The best time to cut and store scionwood is after New Years and before March 15. If you will not be able to cut wood during that time, December is OK as is later March or early April. The trees should be dormant.

To locate "new wood". Go to the terminal end of a branch and follow the twig back to a joint. From the joint outwards is this past summer's "one year old growth": your scionwood. Cut off that twig. If the shoot is longer than 12", cut the shoot up into smaller pieces, say 6-8" long each. If the shoot is less than 12", leave it full length. Eventually when grafting, you will cut up the twigs into 2" pieces. A 2" scion will graft a tree. But it is best NOT to cut up the scionwood into short pieces until grafting time.

Label scionwood with masking tape etc and place in plastic bag. It is OK to store many scions in one bag. Place your scions in a plastic bag. NO need to include wet TP or paper towel or any other wetting substance. Seal the bag. Put that bag in a second plastic bag and seal. Put that bag in a third plastic bag and seal. Now put the triple bagged scionwood into your fridge and forget about it until spring. It will be ready to go when you graft.

John Bunker

trees@fcdseeds.com

www.fcdseeds.com

POBox 520

Waterville ME 04903

207-873-7333