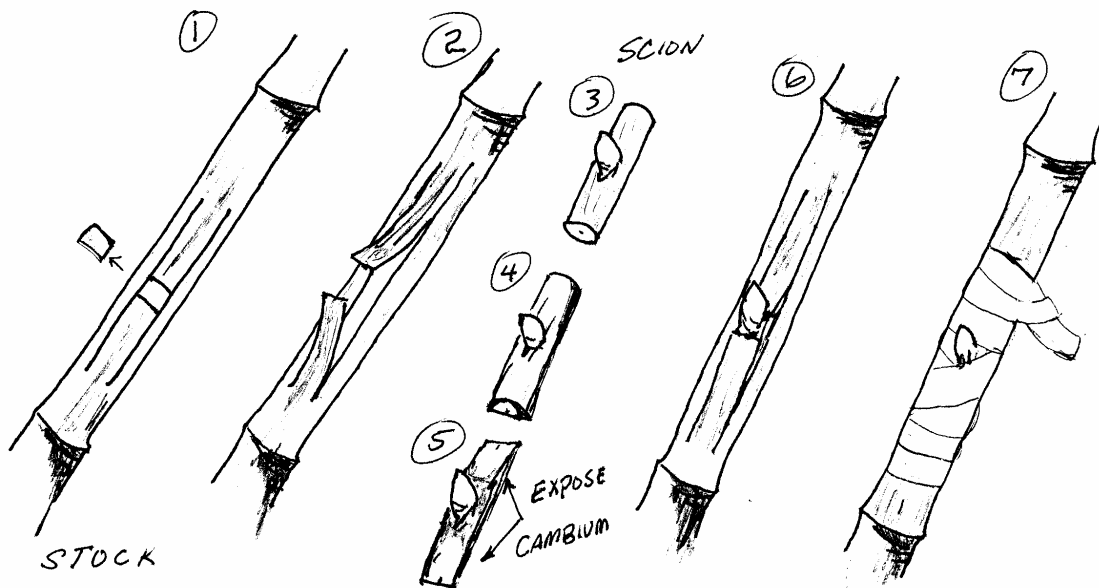


“H” Graft technique
© 2006, Charles B. Suehs
(a type of bark graft or chip budding)
by Charles B. Suehs

This technique needs to be done in early Spring when the bark and cambium layer slips easily from the wood. The cambium is the green layer just under the bark. It is the part of the plant that feeds fluids up the plant. The right time for this type of grafting in San Antonio area is from early to mid-April, but I have done this as late as June.



1. Select a clean smooth area on the stock that you wish to graft to, and with the point of your knife cut through the bark and cambium layers in an H shape. Cut a niche out of the crossbar on the H wide enough to accommodate the bud.
2. The bark and cambium should easily lift up exposing the white wood underneath.
3. Select a good undamaged bud from the scion wood and with your hand pruner cut the length of the scion so that it will be just long enough to easily fit into the H on the stock.
4. Split the scion lengthwise as close to the bud as possible.
5. Trim the bark above and below the bud on the scion so that as much of the green cambium layer is exposed as possible. Do not leave the chip with the cambium exposed long – it dries out fast in a few seconds.
6. Insert the bud into the H and close the flaps. Make sure the bud is pointed in the direction of growth from the trunk of the vine.
7. Wrap tightly with grafting tape leaving the bud sticking out.

Then, just check it every few days to remove suckers that may sprout below the graft. Also, if the temperature gets really warm, say above 90 degrees F, I like to add a shade screen above the graft to protect from direct sunlight and keep it from drying out.