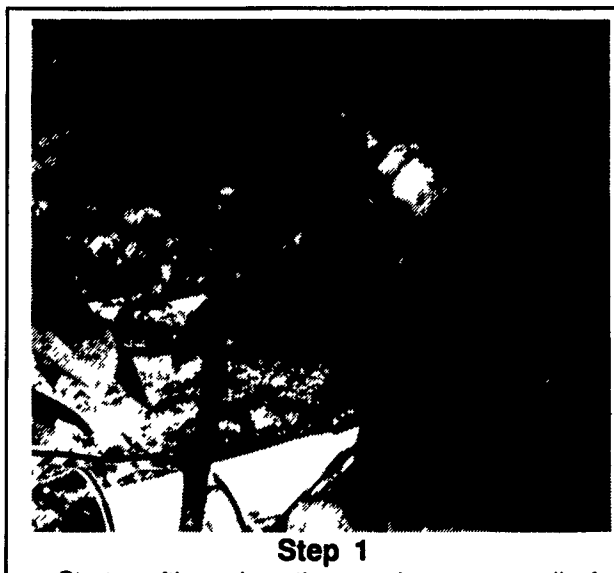
Grafting Ensures Nuts From Trees Bear Delicious Kernels

Twelve Steps To Grafting



Step 1

Start grafting when the weather report calls for temperatures in the 80s four days or more in a row. First choose a tree that is 2-3 years old. Here, Jay Book cuts the trunk of the tree at chest height, at a slight angle.

Step 2

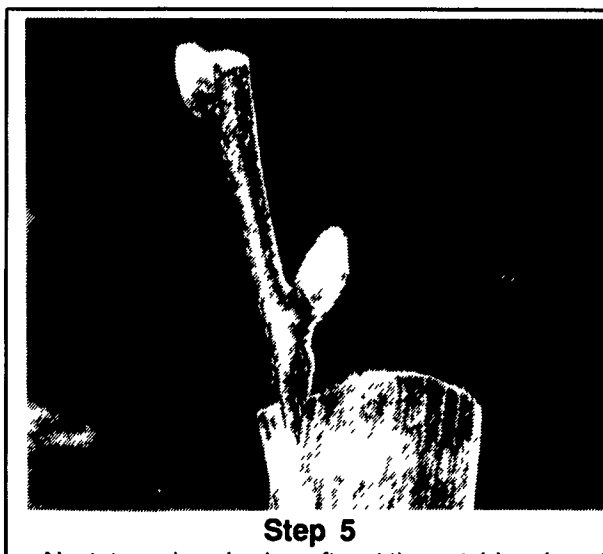
Next, remove all other limbs and branches and new growth, leaving only the trunk.

Step 3

Collect healthy last year's scion wood after 72 hours of nonfreezing temperatures and before the sap begins to flow. (Scion wood is the wood produced at the end of a limb, the new growth from the past year, which appears green in the spring and summer.)

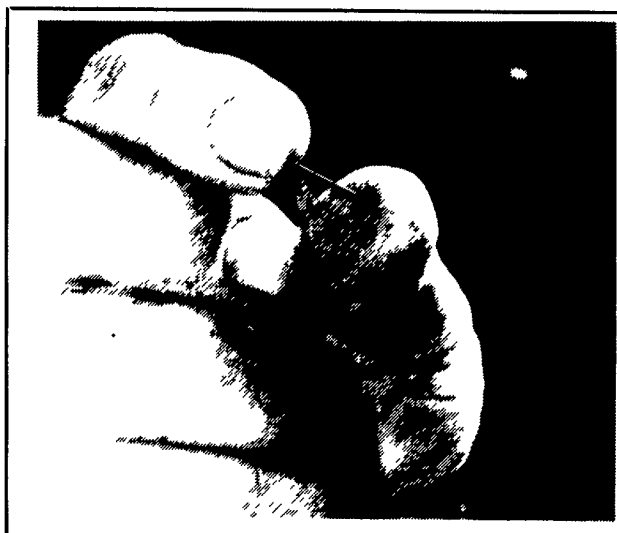
Step 4

Take the scion wood and choose one really healthy bud for top growth. Using a sharp knife, slice the scion wood to expose a "wedge" of cambium layer.



Step 5

Next, to make a bark graft, cut the outside edge of the bark of the trunk away, leaving a site to insert the scion wood wedge. Both cambria layers of the trunk and the scion wood should meet.



Step 6

Use a small nail like this to hammer the scion wood to the bark.

Step 7

Here, Jay Book hammers the scion wood and the cambria layer on the bark of the trunk together.

Step 8

Use a rubber band for additional support.

Step 9

Take a plastic bag and cover the scion and part of the trunk to retain moisture.

Step 10

Attach a side stick for birds to sit on. This will protect the new growth from bird perching and wind damage.

Step 11

Tend grafts every third day to remove growth on the stock. Once the scion begins to grow and is 3 or 4 inches long, stop tending. This Black Walnut, now several years old, shows where it was grafted.

Step 12

By attaching a new scion bearing the better nut to an existing tree — what grafting is all about — and by correct fertilization and care, a nut tree will bear a delicious kernel. These are Fayette hickory nuts.