

T Budding Mid summer

1. Plant the rootstocks in autumn, about 30cm (1ft) apart, in a nursery bed or pot.
2. If the weather is dry, water the rootstocks for two weeks beforehand to ensure that the bark will 'lift' easily; this is crucial for success.
3. For the bud wood, select strong-growing, ripened shoots. For roses, select a flowered shoot about 30cm (1ft) long with three or four growth buds. Remove the foliage and place in a plastic bag to prevent drying out.
4. Cut away a healthy bud with a strip of bark extending about 2.5cm (1in) above and below the bud. Carefully pull away the woody material from behind the bud.
5. Cut the rootstock just deeply enough to pierce the bark and make a T-shaped incision at a height of 15-30cm (6-12in) from the base, with the horizontal cut about 13mm (½in) long and the vertical cut 2-4cm (1-1½in) long. For rose bushes, insert the bud 5-10cm (2-4in) above ground level and, for standard roses, two or three buds are grafted 7.5cm (3in) apart spread around the stem at the height at which the top is required.
6. Ease the flaps of the T outwards to reveal the cambium layer (green wood) beneath.
7. Insert the bud behind the bark flaps with the bud just below the cross-stroke of the T.
8. Trim away the surplus tail protruding above the T.
9. Secure the bud using a rubber binding tie or damp raffia around the grafted area.
10. When the shoot develops the following spring cut off the growth above the bud.

